

# The Tabernacle Tour



## Face to Face with God

A Handbook on  
Heart Transformation

By Jim Ray

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## Forward

The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is a handbook on how to change your heart for God. I would be presumptuous to suggest that your heart should change before I addressed the issues of my own heart. My heart needed and needs to be changed.

My discovery is as old as time. God desires for us to be in a vital, living relationship with Him. That is why He created us. In love, He desires intimacy with each one of us. He desires our hearts to be full of love for Him and enjoy His presence. But, He has determined the way to that life in and through Jesus Christ.

If a man sees a woman and desires to meet and even marry her, there is a courtship process or protocol for him to follow. He can't just go up and ask her to marry him when he first sees her. Every culture has a courtship plan for a man in order to win a woman's heart.

I have known my wife for 43 years. I saw her 44 years ago. I was walking through the halls in our high school when I saw this lovely girl. In the old movies this would be the part where trains collide, lights flash and bells ring. Bells rang for me and my heart was smitten. I schemed for a whole year before I was to actually meet her. Her one "hi" to me in the hallway kept me going for a year.

Even though I knew I would marry Gina Knutzen right after we graduated from high school, it was two more years before we were married. Now, if I would have asked her to marry me the first day I saw her, she would have recoiled and fled. Three years of courtship brought our hearts together and we were married.

God has a method and means for us to get to know Him. Truly, He wants us to be in a close, intimate relationship with Him. But, we can't just go to God with our old life and expect Him to accept us. We can't go into the presence of a holy, righteous God with the filthy rags of our sin. God made the way. God provided a protocol for us to come to Him. He paid the price and courts us with His love. His protocol is outlined in The Tabernacle and led by His High Priest. This Tour is a description of God's plan for approaching and knowing Him.

The bottom line purpose of this Tour is to get our hearts changed. A message prepared in the mind will reach a mind. This message is prepared in the heart of God to reach our heart. God will change our heart as we come before Him by the way He prescribed and provided. My passion in life is to get my heart and keep my heart in love with God. God's passion for us runs deeper and stronger even than ours for Him.

Join me on the Tour of seeking God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. He will change us as we spend time in His presence.

Jim Ray  
March, 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The most intense form of communication is actually being face to face with another person. Seeing the person allows us to view their countenance and know they are listening to what we are saying. We like to be 'face to face' with each other in almost every area of our lives. We value the benefits of being in the presence of each other. As we are 'face to face' our minds, hearts and lives can be influenced and changed.

Political candidates like to go out and shake hands with people in order to see and be seen by their constituents. The voters, in turn, get to see the politician and make decisions based on what they see and hear in the faces of the candidates. In business a sales person likes to get some "face" time with a company's decision makers to make an appeal for their product or services. A phone call, email or other forms of communications fall short of actually being in the presence of the one that can approve a purchase or deal.

Businesses are run by meetings. People sit and exchange all sorts of ideas, thoughts and emotions while being in the same room 'face to face'. Even in the court system, a person is able to see their accusers 'face to face'. Friends and family stay in touch with one another by various forms of communication like cell phone, email, texting and social network sites, but there is nothing like being 'face to face' with one another.

Family members like to get back into personal contact and see each other after being apart. I traveled to Kenya, Africa and was out of range for my cell phone and internet coverage. It was the longest time I had ever spent without being able to regularly communicate with my wife. When I got back into range, I was relieved to hear her voice. Hearing her voice, though, was nothing like seeing her 'face to face' at the airport.

The advantage of being 'face to face' is that we have the opportunity to communicate far more deeply than in other ways. We get to see the facial expressions, hear the nuances of voice and discern the fine distinctions of the person's intent. Words alone cannot compare to being in the presence of another person...'face to face'.

How much more important is it then to be 'face to face' with our Maker? I don't mean just seeing Him 'face to face' after we die. I am talking about being 'face to face' with the Lord here and now on a daily basis. I am referring to having a relationship with God that is not mere talk, but actual intimacy with our Father in heaven.

Join in on the Tour outlined in this manual and discover how you can begin or enrich your 'face to face' time with God. Your heart can be challenged and changed as you spend time in His Presence...'face to face'.

# 1. CHURCH WARNING!!!

The Body of Christ is in extreme danger! The danger is not only from an outside enemy (i.e. Satan and the world). The danger is not from some internal lack of strong Biblical teaching or the wrong kind of music in a worship service. The trouble is much deeper and much more serious.

The danger has to do with us...and our condition. The Old Testament Law required a lamb without spot and blemish to be offered as a sacrifice for sin. Jesus was the final Lamb without spot and blemish (i.e. without sin) that was offered for our sin. His death and resurrection are the means for the Bride to become holy. Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, will have a Bride, the Church, without spot and without blemish. In other words, God desires us to have a pure and holy relationship with Him and a life that demonstrates His Godly character in Him.

The Old Testament sacrifice:

"And you shall provide a lamb a year old without blemish for a burnt offering to the Lord daily; morning by morning you shall provide it." (Ezekiel 46:13, NASB95)

Jesus as the Lamb of God:

"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14, NASB95)

The New Testament Bride of Christ:

"that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, **having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.**" (Ephesians 5:27, NASB95)

(See **SIDE TOUR 1: Spots and Blemishes**)

The current state of the Bride is in disarray and full of spots and blemishes. She is pulled by political forces from within and persecution from without. Like sheep, She is easily led in the wrong direction.

God's people in the Old Testament were commanded not to offer the wrong kind of incense on the Altar of Incense.

"You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it. (Leviticus 30:9, NASB95)

Aaron's two sons were anointed priests and decided to offer up sacrifices not prescribed by the Lord. Their foreign or strange fire offerings cost them their lives.

"These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he ordained to serve as priests. But Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD when they offered strange fire before the LORD in the wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the lifetime of their father Aaron. (Numbers 3:3,4, NASB95)

Today, the Bride has gone after 'strange fire' types of teaching like:

- A self centered 'health and wealth' doctrine;
- The 'Kingdom Now' teaching of trying to bring the Kingdom of God to earth through the political process;
- A 'social gospel' without the Cross or preaching the Cross without love and social involvement
- A "rapture" that pulls all Christians out of the world before the Great Tribulation
- "At will" trips to heaven and spirit travel

Truth taken out of context or embellished is heresy. The truth of Scripture taken out of context or not balanced with other passages can lead to heresy. Throughout history heresy has come in all forms of 'strange fire' types of teachings that are at the expense of preaching and teaching a balanced, whole Biblical Gospel. 'Strange fire' is a heretical teaching that subverts, distorts or perverts solid Biblical doctrine.

The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is not a plea for the Bride of Christ, the Church, to merely clean up Her outward appearance and performance. The Tabernacle Tour is also not an attempt to embrace some new doctrine or teaching. The cry of The Tabernacle Tour comes from the heart of God. His cry is for the Bride to fall back in love with the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. The issue addressed in The Tabernacle Tour is one of the heart...God's heart and ours.

### **...CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE!!!**

Today, heart disease is a major killer. People are dying daily from heart problems. Our lives depend on having healthy hearts. The heart is one of the most important organs and influences our entire body.

"The heart is the organ that pumps blood, with its life-giving oxygen and nutrients, to all tissues of the body. If the pumping action of the heart becomes inefficient, vital organs like the brain and kidneys suffer. And if the heart stops working altogether, death occurs within minutes. Life itself is completely dependent on the efficient operation of the heart."

<http://heartdisease.about.com/od/coronaryarterydisease/a/heartdisease.htm>

"Heart failure occurs when the heart is unable to adequately fill with blood, or is unable to adequately pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. Many types of heart conditions can lead to heart failure, including coronary artery disease, heart valve disease, high blood pressure, congenital heart disease, or cardiac viral infections. Patients with heart failure often suffer from shortness of breath, fatigue, and have difficulty exercising. Their life expectancy is often significantly reduced."

<http://heartdisease.about.com/od/coronaryarterydisease/a/heartfailure.htm>

Heart disease and heart failure are evident in the Body of Christ. It is not with the physical heart of believers but with their spiritual heart. A healthy spiritual heart is vital in our relationship with God. Just as our physical heart pumps blood to every area of the body, the Bride's heart must pump the life of God to keep our spiritual life healthy. In Christ, the life is in His Blood. An insufficient supply of His Blood affects every area of our spiritual lives. The Blood of Christ is the only effective agent to cleanse a person from sin. Failing to teach and preach the truth of the Blood opens the door for people to come to a wrong conclusion on how to know and walk with God. A person can go

to church and have all the outward signs of being a Christian but fail to truly be forgiven by God's standard. The heart needs to be washed with the Blood of Christ by faith.

The Bride's heart needs to be cleared of every blockage that inhibits the proper flow of the life giving Blood of God. The Church (i.e. true believers in Christ) must be on guard against the many types of spiritual heart conditions that can lead to "heart" failure. The most dangerous heart failure is when our love grows cold towards God.

The Scriptures describe various types of hearts. There is the Anxious Heart; Bitter Heart; Comforted Heart; Divided Heart; Evil Heart, Faithful Heart, Generous Heart, Healed Heart, Idolatrous Heart, Jealous Heart, Kind Heart....all the way through the alphabet to the Zealous Heart. From A-Z hearts are described in the Bible.  
(See **SIDE TOUR 2: Heart Exam**)

Some hearts are good and some are bad. Some get turned from God and others get turned towards God. A critical question is what kind of heart do we have, and how can we get our heart changed?

God's heart cry is that we would have a heart and passion for Him. God knows that when our heart changes, our life changes. God is calling His Bride to have a Lion's (or Warrior's) Heart in the world, and a Lamb's (Child's) Heart before Him. The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is a handbook on how to identify, change and maintain a heart for God.

The Bible also describes God's heart for His people. His travail over the nation of Israel while She went after other gods is expressed throughout the Old Testament. God deeply loves us. He loves us so much that He did not spare His own Son to pay for our sin on the Cross. God desires us to be in love with Him and He will even supply the love if we are willing to receive it. God wants to fill the vacuum in our lives with His love. We can't properly love ourselves, others or God without His love. God's desire for us is to put Him first in our lives and love Him.

The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is the second example in a "series" of apostolic type teachings the Lord is bringing to the Body of Christ. The term "apostolic" is defined here as a teaching that crosses all denominational and church boundaries and is for the entire Body of Christ's edification. Apostolic teachings are necessary for the "Virgin" (true believers in Christ) to keep Her lamp full of oil and attentive to the call and heart of the Bridegroom in these last days. The Bride needs to be ready for Jesus Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. She needs to be "dressed" in the righteousness of Christ and her heart in passionate love with the Groom (Jesus Christ).

The first example in this "series" of teachings is contained in a book by a Christian warrior, Don Bell. His book, Knighthood of Christian Warriors, is a Clarion Call from the Book of Revelation to the Body of Christ and those outside the Body of Christ to wake up from slumber and be ready for the coming spiritual battle. The Church has been lulled to sleep by the "rapture" doctrine and will not be prepared for tribulation battle in Her current state. Those outside the Church must be warned and given opportunity to repent and believe in God. God is calling for people with a Warrior's Heart to engage along with The Lion of Judah against Satan's dark kingdom.

A second teaching is contained herein. The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God is a template or blueprint on how to gain and maintain a Lion's Heart against the enemy while keeping a Lamb's Heart before the Father.

A third teaching follows The Tabernacle Tour: Face to Face with God and is being taught by men like Joe Mwaniki of Nairobi, Kenya. The teaching, Open Heaven, teaches how the Body of Christ can



experience an Open Heaven in order to obtain divine health, protection and provision. For God's will to be done and His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven requires an Open Heaven. Signs and wonders follow an Open Heaven for the purpose of confirming and displaying the Kingdom of Light.

"For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will." (Hebrews 2:2-4, NASB95)

Not everyone in the Body of Christ will hear these cries and not everyone will be made ready. Only five of the ten virgins (50%) in Jesus' parable had enough oil to see them through to the end. The end is near and the Bride is in danger. While it is called "Today" may we hear the Father's heart cry to come and be changed and prepared for the onslaught of battle. Our hearts can only be changed as we come into His Presence and remain 'face to face' with Him.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord make His **FACE** shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord lift up His **COUNTENANCE** upon you  
And give you peace"

(Numbers 6:24-26, NASB95)

This Tour Handbook contains several Side Tours in the **SIDE TOURS** section. The **SIDE TOURS** give added insight into various points of interest in relationship to The Tabernacle Tour and our walk in Christ.

All Bible references are from:

*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update.* LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995

**BOLD** passages and words in the Biblical texts are added by the author for emphasis purposes only.

## 2. PHYSICIAN'S WARNING!!

The contents of this Handbook may be hazardous to the spiritual condition of your current heart and lifestyle. When anyone comes 'face to face' with God in His Presence, their heart is changed forever. The Great Physician performs such intricate and thorough surgery on a heart that it will never be the same. Going on this Tour may be hazardous to a cold or lukewarm heart. The Tour is intended to be a great benefit to those who want a heart after God.

### \*\*\*WARNING\*\*\*

Just as a physical exam may be suggested to go on a strenuous trip, a spiritual exam is required to go on The Tabernacle Tour. A person can pass this test when they have come to know God through repentance from sin and faith towards God.

**"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!** Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5, NASB95)

God will examine and test our minds and hearts to see if we are in the faith.

**"Examine me, O Lord, and try me; Test my mind and my heart."** (Psalm 26:2, NASB95)

The Tour of The Tabernacle requires passing the "spiritual exam" and gaining the Doctor's (God's) approval. The Doctor must give His approval before you can enter The Tabernacle and actually become a dwelling place or "tabernacle" of His. "Blood" work is required as part of the testing. The Blood of Christ must have been applied to your heart and life before entry is allowed. If there is a successful completion of this test, a free pass as a gift of grace is granted. As a person accepts the finished work of Christ for their sin; believes in their heart that Jesus was raised from the dead; and, confesses Jesus as Lord passes the test and will be allowed to go on the Tabernacle Tour.

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the **word of faith which we are preaching**, that if you **confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**, and believe **in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved**; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, **"Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."**" (Romans 10:8-11, NASB95)

You will not be disappointed as you invest your time, energy and heart in seeking God's face. God encourages us to receive His gift of a Tour pass. Not everyone will want to receive Him. Many are called but few are chosen. God's call is for those that are willing to listen and respond to His invitation.

"Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today **if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts** as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. "Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways'; As I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "" (Hebrews 3:7-11, NASB95)

### 3. PERSONAL HEART EXAM

I was born in 1950. I was born again around 1960. I was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit in 1970. During the last 40 years of wandering with the Lord, I have had great successes and great failures. My personal time with God has been consistent and inconsistent at times over the years. My heart's cry has been to know Him and the power of His resurrection in living a Christian life.

In my younger years several books outside the Bible were instrumental in shaping my heart for God. Norman Grubb's books Reece Howell, The Intercessor and C. T. Studd, Cricketeer and Pioneer; Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor's Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret; and My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers are among them. Others include books on Goforth, Isabel Kuhn and works by A. W. Tozer, Francis Shaeffer, Watchman Nee, Don Richardson and others.

I was introduced to George Muller through reading of him in a couple biographies. Although the biographies told about what George Mueller accomplished in his life, his autobiography made the biggest impact on me, (Autobiography of George Muller by George Muller, 1984 Whitaker House). Muller was known for taking care of orphans. He sought provisions for the orphans by talking only to God. He never made the needs of the ministry known to others so it could be demonstrated that God was able to provide everything by prayer and faith in Him without the help of other people. The credit and the glory were reserved for God alone. George Muller's autobiography explained why and how he had the spiritual strength for what he did.

The passage in George Mueller's autobiography that made the deepest impact on my life regarded how he nourished his own soul in the Lord. For a complete description of how he nourished his soul in the Lord, please see **SIDE TOUR 3: Soul Nourishment First**. His prayer life was directed by the Spirit of God as he walked and prayed through the New Testament.

I have practiced George Muller's suggestion in nourishing my own soul. Walking and allowing God to direct my prayer life, as I pray through the New Testament, has opened heaven to me and is nourishing and transforming my relationship with Jesus Christ.

During the Spring of 2010, I began to contemplate more deeply the current state of the Church and our love for God. I have been disturbed by the lack of real love for God in my own life. The Bible warns believers of our hearts' tendency to grow cold in loving God in the last days (and actually all through Church history). The cares and riches of this life choke the love for God out of our hearts. The present unsettled world's situation is causing people to turn inward and hearts are cooling off.

""Because lawlessness is increased, most people's **love will grow cold.**" (Matthew 24:12, NASB95)

In thinking through the issue of loving God, I was reminded of the following passage in the Book of Revelation to the Church in Ephesus:

""But I have this against you, that you have **left your first love.**" (Revelation 2:4, NASB95)

Paul, the apostle, spent a lot of time with the Church in Ephesus. He left his faithful associate, Timothy, in Ephesus to help teach and equip the Church. The Book of Ephesians shows that they had been taught many important truths including:

Believers are...

- Blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Chapter 1)
- Seated with Christ (Chapter 1)
- To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Chapter 3)
- To keep correct priorities (Chapter 5)
- To know that marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church (Chapter 5)
- Should stand firm in spiritual warfare (Chapter 6)

Timothy was left in Ephesus to teach against false teaching and reinforce the truths that had been previously communicated to that Church.

“As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the **goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith**. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.” (1 Timothy 1:3-7, NASB95)

Notice that the goal of the instruction to the Church was love. This love was to be from a pure heart, good conscience and a sincere faith. Love is a function of our spirit. A good conscience is in the arena of our soul. Faith is demonstrated through our outward actions in relationship to God and others. The goal is for our hearts to be filled with God’s love and a love for God. The Ephesians had been taught sound Biblical doctrine but by the time the Book of Revelation was written they had left their first love.

““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5, NASB95)

Why were the Ephesians accused of losing their “first love” in the Book of Revelation? How did they lose their “first love”? How can a Church that had been taught powerful truths possibly lose their “first love”? What happened to their faith, hope and, most importantly, their love? In reflecting on what the Spirit was saying to the Church at Ephesus, I considered my own heart and my own love for God. What does it mean to keep your “first love” for God alive and vibrant?

These questions led me to consider what our “first love” is actually. Could our “first love” mean the time we initially meet someone and fall in love? Our concept of love comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. If our “first love” for God is when we first met Jesus in salvation, we may not be able to remember or identify with it today. The first encounter with Jesus in salvation awakens our hearts to God but is not very deep. When I first met my wife my love for her was immature and needed to grow. We were just discovering what love really involved. I can remember some aspects of our love, but it definitely needed to grow deeper. The same is true of our love for God. I know my love for God has grown and matured over the years. Our “first love” for God must be more than the initial excitement of meeting Jesus for the first time at salvation.

Did God want the Ephesians to go back and act like they did when they were first saved? That initial love would be just beginning and not very deep. God exhorts us not to be children or immature in loving Him but wise and growing. Our “first love” needs to grow in maturity towards God.

"As a result, **we are no longer to be children**, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**" (Ephesians 4:14-16, NASB95)

"Brethren, **do not be children in your thinking**; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature." (1 Corinthians 14:20, NASB95)

"When **I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child**; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then **face to face**; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:11-13, NASB95)

"First love" is a call for us to return to God and love Him first. Our love for God must take first place in our hearts. Our hearts get filled with other "loves" that crowd out our love for God. We get preoccupied with the priorities of our own lives and our walk with God takes second place to other things like careers, hobbies and even our families. God wants to be first place in our hearts and lives. "First" really means first. "First" means to put something or someone at the top of the list.

While praying my way through the New Testament, I found the Lord speaking to me about the issue of my own "first love" for God in II Peter 1:

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, **you will never stumble**; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you." (2 Peter 1:2-11, NASB95)

This passage lists seven things that a New Testament believer should pursue. The pursuit will result in never stumbling in a walk with God. "Never" is a great word. It means "by no means; on no account; not at all; in no way". In other words, a believer's "first love" for God will never, by no means, on no account, not at all stumble when these seven truths are diligently pursued and applied in love. The seven things in II Peter 1 are based on God's promises and will cause us to stand in the day of trouble; keep us in a right relationship with God; and allow us to be in the center of God's will for our lives. The entrance to the Kingdom of God is abundantly supplied to us. Our love for God will never stumble or grow cold by practicing these qualities by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Diligently applying these truths is an exhortation for the entire Body of Christ to keep “first things first”.

As I meditated on the truths of II Peter 1, I was reminded by the Lord that we are His temple, the sanctuary or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In the past I have failed to see the connection between my body as a temple of God and the other temples described in the Bible. All the temples in the Bible are based on a particular pattern or blueprint given by God. This original blueprint for all the temples was the meeting place given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. That blueprint meeting place was called The Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle portrays a revelation of Jesus Christ and a picture of the believer as a dwelling place (or tabernacle) of God. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for the believer because it speaks and points us to Jesus Christ. The Tabernacle illustrates the qualities that need to be applied in the lives of the New Testament believer as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

This Tabernacle Tour is not intended to be a comprehensive study of The Tabernacle. Various points of interest and application will be shared by the Tour Guide to stimulate us to study God’s Word further. The primary purpose of The Tabernacle Tour is to help us get our hearts changed and filled with love for God by associating vital truths in II Peter 1 with The Tabernacle. God promises that if these truths are diligently applied in a person’s life, they will never stumble in their walk with God. This Handbook is intended to be a “how-to” book to put the truths of The Tabernacle into practical use in our own personal lives. We need to know how we really are the “tabernacle” or dwelling place or temple of the Holy Spirit.

There is no doubt in my mind that God is able to do above and beyond what we ask or think as we read, hear and obey His Word. We will walk and not be weary. We will run and not faint. We will mount up on wings of eagles as we wait upon the Lord and see Jesus and ourselves in The Tabernacle.

“Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.” (Isaiah 40:31 NASB95)

May the Spirit of God lead each of us into deeper Tabernacle truths. Why? So that each of our hearts can be transformed in our relationship with God. As we apply these truths in our lives, we will be able to love God more and more with pure and upright hearts. Walking into The Tabernacle brings us into the very Presence of God. It is here, in His presence, that we can be ‘face to face’ with Him.

## 4. THE HUMAN BLUEPRINT

### Made In God's Image

The Bible says human beings are made in God's image.

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image, according to Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:26-27, NASB95)

Is the 'image' spoken of here a physical likeness to God? In other words, do we look like God? If the "image" of God is a physical resemblance to Him, then we should all look alike. When you look at any two human beings you will see physical differences. The color, size and shape of each of us are different. We come from different nations, tribes and tongues, and we all look different. God has made us wonderfully different. The "image" we are created in is not a physical resemblance to God.

What does it mean, then, to be made in the "image" of God? Since the image of God is not how we look in our outward appearance, we need to look at how we are made on the inside. Our inside is made up of the unseen person of our soul and spirit. The "image" that God is referring to is our complete being as a human. A human being is a marvelous creation of God and reflects Him in our design.

"For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works**, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them." (Psalm 139:13-16, NASB95)

Our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made. Our soul which is our mind, will and emotions, has also been made wonderfully by God. A complete human being is made up of three parts: spirit, soul and body. Having a body is pretty obvious. When we look into the mirror we see our body. The inner person of our soul and spirit are less obvious and observable but are just as real as our bodies. The Bible is the only instrument that can give real clear insight and discernment into our soul and spirit.

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as **the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13, NASB95)

We are not complete without being made spiritually alive. We are born dead spiritually and incomplete until we get into a right relationship with God. When sin entered the world through Adam, all people were subsequently born spiritually separated or dead to God. We are not spiritually alive until we personally meet the One who has made us and He dwells in our spirit. Until we are 'born again' spiritually, we are incomplete in the most sacred part of our lives which is our spirit. God makes us alive in our spirit when He comes to dwell in us.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body be preserved complete**, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
(1 Thessalonians 5:23, NASB95)

"When you were **dead in your transgressions** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He **made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions**,"  
(Colossians 2:13, NASB95)

## The Godhead

God is three Persons, yet one. The Father is God; the Son, Jesus Christ, is God and the Holy Spirit is God. God is three persons yet only one God. It is hard, no impossible, to get our minds around this truth. Walter Martin in The Kingdom of the Cults says that understanding the nature and composition of God is not "irrational" but "non-rational". In other words, our minds are incapable of understanding God being One but in three Persons.

Jesus Christ makes God understandable. We understand God by looking at Jesus. Jesus came to earth to show us God and make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Jesus submitted Himself to the Father in His death on the Cross and then He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who believe in Him. As God is three in one, we are similarly made three in one. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are God, yet they are One. Just like God is three in one, we are made in His image by being made spirit, soul and body yet we are one person. In this sense we are made in the 'three in one' likeness or image of God.

*Please note: We are not complete in God's eyes until we have come into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's failure, every person who has been born since then is incomplete and separated from God. A person is spiritually dead until they are made alive by Jesus Christ. Until that happens in a person's life, they remain incomplete and spiritually dead. The spirit is dead, the soul is held captive by Satan and the body is subject to the destructive forces of the world.*

The Scriptures show us how God revealed Himself. He revealed Himself through the person of Jesus Christ. Although fully God, Jesus briefly humbled Himself to become a man to show us who God is and how we can come to know Him:

**"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works." (John 14:10, NASB95)

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8, NASB95)

Studying Jesus gives us insight into the nature of God and our own nature. Jesus is our pattern for living in relationship with God and by Him we understand the nature of our own true 'image'. When we are in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are made in His likeness and we are made complete in our spirit, soul and body. Although we are made complete in Christ, we have not seen the complete redemption of all things. There is a battle raging between God's design



and purposes and sin, the world and the devil. We are a work in progress and we need to be patient with the work God is doing in us and others.

Salvation affects us in different stages. When we are born again by receiving the substitutionary work that Jesus did for us on the Cross, we are made alive in our spirit. In our spirit we are saved (past tense). Our sins are forgiven and we are in a right relationship with God. Our soul (mind, will and emotions) is in the process of being saved (present tense). Our minds need to be continually brought into subjection to God. Our choices need to be led by the Holy Spirit and not our own desires. Our emotions need to be brought into compliance with God and not be the director of our behavior. Our bodies will be saved (future tense). As we walk with the Lord He can demonstrate His supernatural health and healing in our bodies. We will not be outside the presence of sin until we die or Jesus returns. When we see Him we will be changed in an instant and given new bodies. The result is that we are saved in our spirit; we are being saved in our souls; and, we will be saved in our bodies when we see Jesus.

### **Temples of the Holy Spirit**

The Bible calls the physical body of a believer the “temple” of the Holy Spirit. A Biblical “temple” is a dwelling place, meeting place or sanctuary of God:

"Or do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God **in your body**." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NASB95)

The Bible also calls the corporate Body of Christ the “temple of the Holy Spirit”. We as individual Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and corporately we make up the Body of Christ which is indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit.

**"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what **you are**." (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, NASB95) (“you”:plural)

There are many “temples” in the Bible. (**SIDE TOUR 4: Biblical Temples**). The template or blueprint for all the temples in Scripture was given to Moses on Mt Sinai after God delivered His people from Egypt. The Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting was specifically designed by God. God gave Moses the blueprint for the Tabernacle and instructed Moses to build it exactly according to His plans. All subsequent “temples” in Scripture are based on the Tabernacle’s blueprint. The Tabernacle was God’s blueprint for meeting and dwelling with His people.

The Old Testament Tabernacle is also the blueprint for a person who has come into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That person becomes a “temple (or tabernacle) of the Holy Spirit”. The Old Testament Tabernacle gives us insight into how we are made as the temple of the Holy Spirit. God reveals insight into who He is and who we are in the design of The Tabernacle.

The Old Testament is a shadow that looked toward the reality we have in Jesus Christ. The shadow gives us revelation into our life in Christ. The Old Testament’s purpose is to point us to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God laid the foundation for how He would interact with His people in the Old Testament through His Law. The reality of His purposes would be realized in Jesus Christ. The works He did in the Old Testament all point to the One who was to come and bring salvation.

"Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; **who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to **the pattern** which was shown you on the mountain." (Hebrews 8:4-5, NASB95)

## Spiritual Dwelling Places

Followers of Christ are being built up as a spiritual dwelling place or 'tabernacle' of the Holy Spirit. God is doing a supernatural work in the lives of His people to be a living dwelling place for Himself. The old temples were made with earthly materials where His new temple is made out of people as 'living stones'.

" And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**" (1 Peter 2:4-5, NASB95)

The Tabernacle in the Old Testament is the pattern and gives the protocol for approaching God. It gives us instruction on how we can get 'face to face' with God. As we are 'face to face' with God He changes our heart and we fall deeper in love with Him. God's Word wonderfully communicates to us God's protocol for coming into relationship with Him. The Bible is the complete source for our approach to and walk with God.

"**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NASB95)

God met His people in The Tabernacle. His desire is still to meet with us and talk to us and be our God. He does that in His dwelling place, The Tabernacle.

"The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it the same grain offering and the same drink offering as in the morning, for a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the Lord. "It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the Lord, **where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.** "I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. "I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me. "**I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God.** "They shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that **I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God.**" (Exodus 29:41-46, NASB95)

In the New Testament a born again believer and follower of Jesus Christ is indwelt by the living God. Jesus said that if we abide in Him, He would abide in us. We become His Tabernacle.

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5, NASB95)

## 5. THE TABERNACLE: BLUEPRINT

God was careful to give detailed instructions to Moses on how to construct The Tabernacle. God outlined everything for how The Tabernacle should be made and used. His design for The Tabernacle had three basic sections:

1.) The Outer Court

2.) The Holy Place

3.) The Most Holy Place (also called The Holy of Holies)

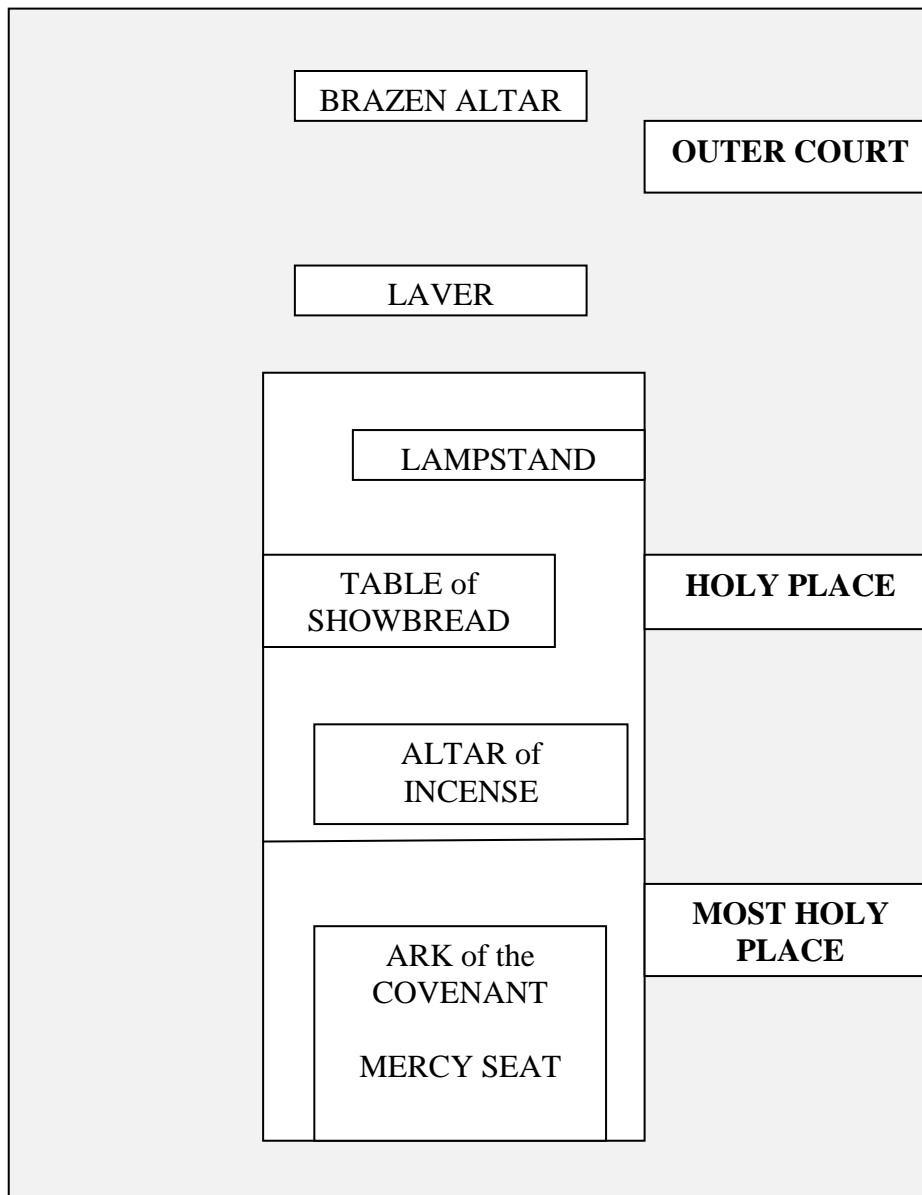
The Holy Place and Most Holy Place were inside the Tabernacle tent. The Tabernacle tent was surrounded by the walls of the Outer Court. All twelve Tribes of Israel encamped around the Outer Court, three tribes on the East, three tribes on the North, three tribes on the West and three tribes on the South. In this sense, God would dwell in the center of His people and be the object of their worship and life.

### **The Outer Court**

The Outer Court measured approximately 75 feet (50 cubits) wide and 150 feet (100 cubits) long. The Outer Court curtain wall was supported by wood boards about 7.5 feet (5 cubits) tall. There was an opening in the wall on the East side and was covered by a veiled door. The Outer Court was always set up so that this opening faced East. The curtains were hung by silver rings supported by acacia boards set in bronze sockets. The Outer Court had two pieces of furniture located in it between the east Outer Court opening and the doorway to the Tabernacle tent.

### **The Tabernacle: 2 Sections**

The Tabernacle was a tent erected inside the Outer Court. The Tabernacle measured about 15 feet (10 cubits) by 45 feet (30 cubits). The Tabernacle was divided into two sections, The Holy Place and The Most Holy Place which is also called the Holy of Holies. The Tabernacle contained furniture made of gold and acacia wood covered with gold. The two areas (Holy Place and Most Holy Place) were separated by a heavy veil wall. The Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) was where God met with His people 'face to face'.



## 6. THE TABERNACLE: CONSTRUCTION

God said to Moses, "Make me a **sanctuary**, that I may dwell among them" (Ex 25:8). God gave the blueprint for this 'sanctuary' or 'holy place' to Moses. The sanctuary where God would meet with His people was called The Tabernacle.

God instructed Moses to employ two lead craftsmen to build The Tabernacle. They were to oversee and build all the Furniture, furnishings and priestly garments. The names of these craftsmen were Bezalel (betsal'el, meaning "in the shadow (protection) of 'El (God)"; and Oholiab ('oholi'abb, meaning "father's tent"). The meaning of Bezalel's name is very significant. God was overshadowing and giving Bezalel the gifts and ability to do the work He desired him to do. A piece of furniture called The Mercy Seat would be built to signify being in the presence of God and under the shadow or protection of His wings.

"Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. **"I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs** for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. "And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you: the **tent of meeting, and the ark of testimony, and the mercy seat upon it, and all the furniture of the tent, the table also and its utensils, and the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering also with all its utensils, and the laver and its stand, the woven garments as well, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, with which to carry on their priesthood; the anointing oil also, and the fragrant incense for the holy place,** they are to make them according to all that I have commanded you."" (Exodus 31:1-11, NASB95)

Bezalel was from the Tribe of Judah and Oholiab was from the Tribe of Dan. "Judah" means "praise" and "Dan" means "God is my judge". God's house (sanctuary) is built with praise according to His will and judgment. Praise is acknowledging and giving credit to someone for their abilities or deeds. The work God was having done in building The Tabernacle was for His praise and glory.

We like to be in charge and the center of our own worlds. We like to do what is right in our own eyes and we would like others to praise us. God's standards and plans are much different than ours. He has made us and not the other way around. God is actually in control of the universe and we need to come into compliance with Him and His way of doing things. His judgment is right, true and holy and is for our best interests whether we agree with His ways or not. The Tabernacle and all that would go on in it was designed by God. It was to make a way for the unholy to meet with the Holy One on His terms.

Today we would call Bezalel and others like him "laymen" or blue collar workers. God highly values people and their work whether in an office building or out on a job site. All our work is sacred or holy if we are a believer in Christ. Bezalel and Oholiab were filled with the Spirit in wisdom, understanding, knowledge and **craftsmanship**. God specifically gifted them for the work they were to accomplish. Likewise, God has gifted us and has strategically placed us in our work for His glory.

"Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, **but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.** With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him." (Ephesians 6:5-9, NASB95)

God highly valued the workmen that built The Tabernacle. He values the work we do in the workplace and desires for us to reflect His glory to those around us.

*Just a quick word:*

*I believe that there is no distinction between secular and sacred work for the follower of Christ. The believer's vocation is to follow Jesus Christ and minister to build the Body of Christ and expand His Kingdom. As believer's we have many avocations to provide funds for our living, giving and ministries. God wants us to see that He has strategically placed us where He wants us for His purposes and glory. Our occupation is to radiate Christ to others where we are placed whether in the workplace or home.*

*The "clergy-lay" split concept is an abomination to the Lord and is the "Nicolaitan" spirit referred to in the Book of Revelation. God has given the Body various offices and leaders to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. Jesus has made every believer a priest in His Kingdom. When we elevate people and make them more important than others because of their "spiritual" positions, we fall away from what Jesus taught on serving others in the Upper Room. The danger to the Church is to follow a person and not God. (See **SIDE TOUR 5: The Church vs. the church**).*

*"And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' "But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? **But I am among you as the one who serves.**" (Luke 22:24-27, NASB95)*

*God desires that His Presence be made known in every place (work place included) and not just in the Church. We are the ministers of the New Covenant. God wants us to bloom where He plants us in and out of church buildings.*

*"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us **the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**" (2 Corinthians 2:14, NASB95)*

*We are all bond-servants of God in His Kingdom no matter how many Churches we oversee or how big our ministries become. We have One Head, One Teacher, One Chief Shepherd and One Leader, Jesus Christ. Under-shepherds must follow in Jesus' footsteps in learning and exercising servant leadership.*

*"Do not be called leaders; for **One is your Leader, that is, Christ.**" (Matthew 23:10, NASB95)*

*A "ministry" can become an idol. We are called to serve and seek God not letting anything come between our face and God's. God and not our ministries should be our focus. God told Ezekiel that the leaders of Israel had set up idols that blocked their faces from God. A ministry can become an idol and worshipped instead of God. A ministry or position can become a snare in really serving God in spirit and truth.*

" Then some elders of Israel came to me and sat down before me. And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, **these men have set up their idols in their hearts and have put right before their faces the stumbling block of their iniquity.** Should I be consulted by them at all? "Therefore speak to them and tell them, "Thus says the Lord God, "Any man of the house of Israel **who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity,** and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols, in order to lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel who are estranged from Me through all their idols." ' ' "Therefore say to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord God, "Repent and turn away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations. "For anyone of the house of Israel or of the immigrants who stay in Israel who separates himself from Me, sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet to inquire of Me for himself, I the Lord will be brought to answer him in My own person. "I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from among My people. So you will know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 14:1-8, NASB95)

*Idols block our face from God's face. A ministry can become so important to a person that they lose sight of Who they are really serving. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works. Doing good works and ministry should be a result of seeing God face to face.*

*May we work as unto Him in all we do and not let anything cloud our view of Him. God intends for every one of His people to be full time ministers of the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

## 7. THE TABERNACLE: SUPPLY OF MATERIALS

The basic construction materials for the Tabernacle were to be provided by God's people. God delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt through Moses by means of many plagues upon the land. Not only did God deliver His people, He gave them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. The Egyptians were so glad to see the Israelites leave that they gave them many of their possessions and riches at the request of the Israelites.

"Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. **Thus they plundered the Egyptians.**" (Exodus 12:35-36, NASB95)

God invited His people to participate in His building plan by giving the "plunder" they received from the Egyptians. The invitation was to give these materials freely and willingly to Moses to be used to build The Tabernacle. No one had to give by compulsion but only as their own heart moved them.

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; **from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution.** "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. "According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it." (Exodus 25:1-9, NASB95)

Please note that the contribution was to be made by those whose hearts moved them. The offering was truly free will and the response by the people was overwhelmingly positive. It turns out that the people gave so willingly and abundantly that the craftsman had to go to Moses and tell the people to STOP giving.

"Now Bezalel and Oholiab, and every skillful person in whom the Lord has put skill and understanding to know how to perform all the work in the construction of the sanctuary, shall perform in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded." Then Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful person in whom the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him, to come to the work to perform it. They received from Moses all the contributions which the sons of Israel had brought to perform the work in the construction of the sanctuary. **And they still continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. And all the skillful men who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which he was performing, and they said to Moses, "The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform."** So Moses issued a command, and a proclamation was circulated throughout the camp, saying, **"Let no man or woman any longer perform work for the contributions of the sanctuary."** Thus the people were restrained from bringing any more. For the material they had was sufficient and more than enough for all the work, to perform it." (Exodus 36:1-7, NASB95)



*Ponder this question: Has there been any church service that you have ever attended that the leaders asked you to stop giving because the congregation had given too much? I haven't either. A couple of problems in the Church today are that people give too little or not at all and then the money is used for the wrong purposes. Teaching people to give so that they can get is not Biblical. When the offering and giving of the Church is used by leaders to live an extravagant lifestyle, this too is an abomination to God. Spiritual leaders are worthy of support yet the love of money is the root of all evils Our hearts must stay pure and right before the Lord in handling it. After all, it's His money.*

### **A New Tabernacle Application**

When we are drawn to God by the Holy Spirit, we are invited to give up our old life willingly when we come to Christ. We give all our old "Egypt" life to God so that we can have a new life in Christ. We surrender ourselves (our "temples") to Him freely so that He can construct in us that which is pleasing in His sight. We become His workmanship after we voluntarily surrender to Him.

**"For we are His workmanship,** created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10, NASB95)

"According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. **But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward." (1 Corinthians 3:10-14, NASB95)

*Our lives radically change when we come to Christ by faith. The Holy Spirit begins to build Jesus' life and character into our lives. As we cooperate with Him, He begins "construction" in us as His dwelling place, His Tabernacle. We are a spiritual house where God is at work to conform us to Christ.*

## 8. THE TABERNACLE: BILL OF MATERIALS (BOM)

A BOM stands for a Bill of Materials. A BOM is a manufacturing term for a list of raw materials used to build or make a product. The materials used in the construction of The Tabernacle are outlined in Exodus 25.

" Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: **gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.** "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. "According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it." (Exodus 25:1-9, NASB95)

The BOM (Bill of Materials) for The Tabernacle included:

<b>Metals:</b>	Gold
	Silver
	Bronze
<b>Cloth:</b>	Blue
	Purple
	Scarlet
	Fine linen
<b>Skins:</b>	Goat Hair
	Ram's skin dyed red
	Porpoise skin
<b>Other:</b>	Acacia wood
	Oil for lighting
	Spices for the anointing oil and fragrant incense
	Onyx and setting stones for the ephod and breastpiece

The materials used in The Tabernacle have symbolic significance spiritually. Every item in The Tabernacle was specifically chosen by God and had special significance. Some examples of this symbolism are as follows:

Gold =	PERFECTION or PURE LOVE OF GOD
Silver =	REDEMPTION
Bronze =	MIXED METAL -Jesus as fully God and fully Man
Blue =	LOVE
Purple =	KINGSHIP
Scarlet =	Our SIN and the BLOOD of Christ
Goat Hair =	MANKIND
Ram's skin =	The BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST
Acacia wood =	The CROSS
Oil =	The HOLY SPIRIT

The linen material used in constructing the door of the Outer Court is an example of this spiritual symbolism. The colors of the linen were blue, purple and scarlet. These colors represent the Prophet (Blue), Priest (Scarlet) and King (Purple) offices of Jesus Christ. The door to the Outer Court is through Jesus Christ. Another symbolic example for these colors (red, blue, purple) is when Jesus' Outer Court (His Body) was bruised and beaten when He was flogged and crucified. His Body was made blue and purple as His scarlet blood was shed for our sin. The doorway to the Outer Court and Tabernacle is through the offices and broken body of Jesus Christ.

The posts holding the curtain up in the Outer Court were of special significance. The acacia boards were placed into bronze sockets. The boards had silver caps and silver hooks holding the curtain. Bronze is a mixed metal of copper and tin. Jesus was a mixture of being totally God and totally man. Bronze represents the God-Man coming to and touching earth. The acacia wood represents the Cross. The silver hooks and caps represent redemption. Jesus was betrayed by Judas with 30 pieces of silver. Jesus redeemed (silver) us when He hung on the Cross (acacia wood) as the sinless Man (bronze). He came to die and pay the penalty for our sins. A sky view looking down on the tops of the posts of the Outer Court would show silver caps of the posts. God looks at us through the lens of the redeeming Cross, Jesus' death for us.

All the Outer Court's metal was bronze. The Brazen Altar and the Altar's utensils, The Laver, the sockets for the boards and the tent pegs were all made of bronze in the Outer Court. Jesus came to earth to show us how to live before God. God became a Man in order to show God to man. His "Outer Court" was shown to mankind when He came to earth as God and as Man. Bronze is symbolic in The Tabernacle for this mixture of the God-Man in the Outer Court.

The Furniture and posts in the Inner Court were made of a different metal. Everything in The Tabernacle's Inner Court was made of gold or wood covered by gold. Jesus came and stood on the earth as God and Man (bronze) and He brought the love and perfection of God from His "Inner Court" (gold) to those who are separated from Him. Jesus is the manifestation of God's pure love for mankind.

*The BOM for The Tabernacle is symbolically significant of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The point of seeing the symbolic significance in The Tabernacle is to understand that the whole Bible speaks of Jesus. All Scripture speaks of Him:*

*"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify about Me**;" (John 5:39, NASB95)*

*There is a difference between "spiritualizing" the Bible and seeing the spiritual significance of a Bible passage. Spiritualizing a text stretches the intended truth of the passage and goes beyond the meaning or intent of the verse. The Bill of Materials used in The Tabernacle was specifically chosen by God and has spiritual significance. He did not pick these things at random. Everything that God does and chooses has a purpose. The Bible should be used to interpret the Bible. The spiritual significance of the BOM can be demonstrated by other passages that give the meaning or clarity to the item. The goal is to see how that item testifies to the work or person of Jesus Christ.*

## 9. THE TABERNACLE: FURNITURE

The seven pieces of Furniture in The Tabernacle are:

### 1.) **The Brazen Altar:**

Material: Made of bronze.

Purpose: The sacrifices were burnt on the Brazen Altar. The animals offered to God were bled and burned at The Altar.

Location: Located just inside the East opening the Outer Court.

### 2.) **The Laver:**

Material: Made of bronze

Purpose: Various washings were conducted at the Laver. The priests were to wash before entering the Holy Place.

Location: Located between the Brazen Altar and outside the door of The Tabernacle tent of meeting.

### 3.) **The Lampstand:**

Material: Made of pure gold.

Purpose: Provided light in The Tabernacle.

Location: Located inside the Holy Place of The Tabernacle on the left side.

### 4.) **The Table of Showbread:**

Material: Made of acacia wood and covered with gold.

Purpose: 12 pieces of bread were placed on the table with other utensils.

Location: Located on the right inside the Holy Place of The Tabernacle.

### 5.) **The Altar of Incense:**

Material: Made of gold.

Purpose: Scented incense was offered up on this Altar.

Location: Located in the Holy place before the Veil.

### 6.) **The Ark of the Covenant:**

Material: Made of acacia wood covered with gold.

Purpose: Contained a gold jar with manna in it; Aaron's Rod; and, the Tablets of Stone

Location: Located inside the Most Holy Place.

### 7.) **The Mercy Seat:**

Material: Made of pure gold.

Purpose: Two cherubim set facing each other made of pure gold under golden wings. Represents the throne or dwelling place of God.

Location: Located on top of the Ark of the Covenant.

## The Veil:

The two sections of The Old Tabernacle (Holy Place and Most Holy Place) and subsequent Temples were divided by a Veil. The Veil was made of blue, purple and crimson linen, goats hair and porpoise skins dyed red. The Veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in The Tabernacle.

The New Tabernacle does not have a Veil. The Veil in the Temple in Jerusalem was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died on the Cross. God made the way open to His Presence and see His face by tearing the Veil. There was and is nothing man can do to get to God. God Himself opened the way for mankind to come to know Him. Jesus' body was the 'veil' that was 'torn' for us to come into God's Presence.

Another veil still covers the minds of those who do not know God. This 'veil' is what covers the minds of the Nation of Israel today and why Jesus has not been received as the Messiah. Anyone that turns to the Lord will have this veil taken away so that they can know Him.

**"But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."** (2 Corinthians 3:15-16, NASB95)

When a person receives Jesus as their Savior, the veil that covered their heart is removed. Until then, a person is held captive by Satan to do his will.

**"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."** (2 Timothy 2:24-26, NASB95)

**"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."** (Ephesians 2:1-3, NASB95)

## 10. THE TABERNACLE: OLD and NEW

God gave The Old Tabernacle's design to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Old Tabernacle is the prototype pattern for the New Tabernacle. There are two New Tabernacles in the New Testament. One is the believer's body as the tabernacle or temple of the Holy Spirit and the other is the corporate tabernacle or temple of the Body of Christ, the Church.

The Old Tabernacle represents the Old Covenant given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Moses was allowed to come into God's Presence based on the Old Testament Law. The Law of God outlined all the instructions and protocol for how a person should live and approach God. God commanded that only a particular tribe could enter The Tabernacle and only at appointed times. Moses' brother Aaron and his children from the Tribe of Levi were appointed priests unto God. The Levitical priests were the liaison between God and the people of Israel.

When a person becomes a new creature in Christ through salvation, they become a priest in God's Kingdom. The New Testament changed the way God would be approached. Still, only priests can enter the new Tabernacle. In Christ, we have become royal priests in His Kingdom. We begin a new occupation as a priest when we come to Christ. God may have us involved with other work as an avocation, but our real life's pursuit is to follow Jesus as His priests.

"But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10, NASB95)

The New Tabernacle is the fulfillment of the shadow and pattern of the Old. Our bodies are the temple (or tabernacle) of God and the Church. The Body of Christ is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Our new instructions for approaching God are based on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is our protocol for approaching God. We are now a royal priesthood by faith in Christ and minister in the New Tabernacle of our hearts.

God's Presence guided the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night under Moses' leadership. Today, God dwells in and guides us by faith in Him. The cloud and fire of His Presence dwells in the New Tabernacle (i.e. the body) of a believer. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. He leads us to the Cross for redemption and our sin nature and sins are forgiven based on the sacrifice of our High Priest, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to bridge the gap between God and mankind. Our High Priest paved the way for us to be in the Presence of God. Jesus resides in the New Tabernacle and He is the New Covenant protocol for our relationship with God.

Our Outer Court is our physical body. The Inner Court had two sections which were the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Our Soul corresponds to the Holy Place of the Old Tabernacle and our Spirit corresponds to the Tabernacle's Most Holy Place.

In Christ we have three parts. We have a body, a soul and a spirit made alive in Christ. The Bible describes our three part make-up (i.e. spirit, soul and body):

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of **soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13, NASB95)

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NASB95)

Our soul is made up of our mind, will and emotions. Our spirit is the seat of our heart and is where God dwells in the life of a believer. The Bible says we are to love God with our whole heart (spirit), soul (soul) and might or strength (body).

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart and with all your soul and with all your might**." (Deuteronomy 6:5, NASB95)

### **BODY: The New Tabernacle's Outer Court**

The Holy Spirit fills our bodies and resides in us to work on conforming us to Christ. The Holy Spirit works with the activities we do in the flesh. We have the ability to follow our natural desires or choose to follow God and His will. If we walk in the flesh we do not fulfill the desires of the Spirit; conversely, if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. The will of Holy Spirit and our fleshly appetites are in contrast and opposition to each other.

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the **flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please." (Galatians 5:16-17, NASB95)

Our natural activities are driven and controlled by our flesh. The Holy Spirit works in us to put to death these natural fleshly activities so that we can walk according to the will of the One who made us. As we understand that we are crucified with Christ by faith, God uses the Cross as the instrument to put our natural desires and activities to death. We are justified before God by the work of Jesus on the Cross. The Holy Spirit begins to work in us to form the life of Christ in us after we are saved. God's goal is for us to live a Godly life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit through our God given bodies.

"Now the **deeds of the flesh are evident**, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21, NASB95)

The Holy Spirit has come to lead us into all truth. He shows us the truth about ourselves and gives us the opportunity to change. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and gives us the way to gain forgiveness by the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. The Cross is the means God designed to forgive our sin.

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. "And He, when He comes, **will**



**convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin,** because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "**He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.** "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:7-15, NASB95)

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things,** and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26, NASB95)

Satan has no interest in the Cross and God's forgiveness and grace. The enemy of our souls is not interested in us finding relief from the penalty of our sin. He is active in accusing us before God and wants us condemned.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10, NASB95)

The Holy Spirit equips a believer with gifts, fruit, ministries and manifestations. His desire is to conform us to Christ and to help build and strengthen the Body of Christ. He is at work in us to manifest the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit are expressed to others through our "outer court" or behavior. The Holy Spirit exercises the manifestations and ministries of the Spirit through our outward actions and life to help and build others up spiritually in the Body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit has come to grant gifts, develop fruit, equip for ministry and manifest supernatural effects.

### **Seven GIFTS**

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:6-8, NASB95)

### **Nine FRUIT**

"But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:22-24, NASB95)

### **Five-fold MINISTRIES**

"And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" (Ephesians 4:11-12, NASB95)

## Nine MANIFESTATIONS

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to **each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good**. For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, and to another the **effecting of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, and to another **the interpretation of tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, NASB95)

### SOUL: The New Tabernacle's Holy Place

Jesus is the Savior of our souls. Our soul is made up of our mind (thoughts), will (choices) and emotions (feelings).

#### Our Mind

God desires for us to have our thought life centered on Him. We do not die physically when we are reckoned crucified, dead and buried in Christ, but we are to die to our own thinking and actions. Our mind must be transformed so that we can think and discern and know spiritual things.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3, NASB95)

"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, **combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words**. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised." (1 Corinthians 2:11-14, NASB95)

For our minds to be protected, the head (where our mind resides) should be covered with the spiritual armor of salvation. Our thoughts need to be taken captive so that we can focus on Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Savior and protector of our mind. Jesus wants our minds to be placed under His control (Inner Court) rather than being controlled by our own flesh (Outer Court).

"And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17, NASB95)

"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are **taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**," (2 Corinthians 10:5, NASB95)

We know what God thinks by His Spirit inspired Word, the Bible. We are to set our minds on the things above, where Christ is seated, by meditating on God's Word. The Hebrew word for meditating comes from the activity that a sheep does in chewing its cud. The sheep eats grass, swallows it and then coughs the casting back up to begin chewing it again. This process breaks down the cellulose of the grass in order for it to be digested. The process of rumination by a sheep is compared to how we are to meditate on God's Word. Meditating on God's Word involves reading, reflecting and praying. Memorizing and even singing God's Word helps us to understand and apply God's Word in our lives. Regularly meditating on God's Word helps us to set our minds on the things of God.

"“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” (Joshua 1:8, NASB95)

### **Our Will**

The soul's choices or the acts of our will need to be brought into conformity to the will of God in Christ. We walk in a manner worthy of the Lord when we look to Him and not to our own desires.

“Your Kingdom come, **Your will be done** on earth as it is in heaven...” (Matthew 6:10, NASB95)

God's will and our will can only become the same as we yield ourselves to Him. Frankly, we like to have our own way and we are naturally self-centered and selfish. Dying to our will and choosing God's way needs supernatural intervention. Jesus showed how a person can deny the self will and choose God's will. When Jesus was faced with dying on the Cross, He said not His will but the Father's will be done. We will either conform to the natural way of the world or we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds and have God's way in us.

" Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**" (Romans 12:1-2, NASB95)

### **Our Emotions**

The soul is also the seat of our emotions and feelings. Although feelings should not guide our lives, our emotions are a very real part of who we are. Jesus demonstrated love, compassion, joy, sorrow, anger. Our emotions need to come under the control of the Holy Spirit so that we will demonstrate our feelings in a manner that glorifies God. Praise and thanksgiving should be shouted to our living God. We sing with heartfelt emotion in love to our Redeemer. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Our feelings can be fleeting and deceptive. One minute we feel like we are on top of the world and the next we can be in the depths of despair. God invites us to cast all our cares on Him, because He cares for us. His peace can calm the stormiest emotions.

"**casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7, NASB95)

"**Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all

comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7, NASB95)

Our soul is the battlefield between Christ and our enemy, Satan. Jesus is the lover of our souls while Satan is the enemy of our souls. Our enemy wants our mind set on the things of this world, our choices to be self centered and our emotions ruling our lives. Satan tries to cause a believer to fail through the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life. Adam was tempted in these areas in the Garden of Eden and failed. Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert in these same areas and succeeded. By the power of the Holy Spirit a believer can follow in Jesus' successful footsteps.

### **SPIRIT: The New Tabernacle's Most Holy Place**

God is Spirit and desires to be worshiped in spirit and truth. He desires our hearts to be in love with Him as His children. A believer is adopted by the Father into His family as His child. The difference between a natural child and an adopted child is that the adopted child was specifically chosen by the parent. We have been specially chosen by our Father and become part of His family through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

""**God is spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."" (John 4:24, NASB95)

"So, as those who have been **chosen of God, holy and beloved**, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;" (Colossians 3:12, NASB95)

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"**" (Galatians 4:4-6, NASB95)

Our spiritual heart is the place where God dwells in us. This most holy place is where we are joined with God and commune with Him. Our spirit is joined and communes with God as Spirit in our most holy place, our heart.

Spirit, soul and body are who we are as a complete human being. Our completeness is only found when we are in a right relationship with our Maker. God's will is that we walk united with Him in love for Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The parallels between God, The Tabernacle and how we are made help us to see how we are a wonderful creation of God.

## A Tabernacle Comparison

The following chart shows an interesting relationship between the Old Tabernacle, New Tabernacle, Mankind and the Godhead.

<b>OLD TABERNACLE</b>	<b>NEW</b>	<b>Mankind</b>	<b>Godhead</b>
OUTER COURT	BODY	Physical Body	Holy Spirit
HOLY PLACE	SOUL	Mind, Will, Emotions	Jesus Christ
MOST HOLY PLACE	SPIRIT	Heart	Father

The Old Tabernacle's Outer Court corresponds to the New Tabernacle's Outer Court which is our physical body. The Holy Spirit dwells in our bodies as the sanctuary of God. Our Holy Place, the soul, is the seat of our mind will and emotions. Jesus came to be the Savior of our souls. Finally, we approach God in the Most Holy Place of our lives which is our spirit. God is Spirit and dwells in our spirit.

*The Tabernacle is a picture of who we are. As we walk through the Tabernacle we can see a wonderful relationship between God, The Tabernacle and we who are made in His 'image'.*

# 11. THE TABERNACLE: GUIDED TOUR

## Introduction

We are made brand new creatures when we come to Christ. The old things of our lives pass away and all things become new. We are born and united with God in our spirit. Our souls are saved by Jesus Christ and we have the strength to live our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything about us is made brand new by God. We are made new in our spirit. We get newness in our soul and we get new power to live for God in our behavior.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature; the old things passed away;** behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation," (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, NASB95)

We become the dwelling place of God and He begins a work in us to make Godly choices and live for His good pleasure. We are His workmanship and we are being made into His dwelling place or "tabernacle".

" For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, **a house not made with hands**, eternal in the heavens." (2 Corinthians 5:1, NASB95)

The tour through The Tabernacle is a spiritual tour conducted by the High Priest of our souls, Jesus Christ. Jesus knows The Tabernacle intimately. He is the One who designed The Tabernacle and will be the best guide for the Tour.

" Now the main point in what has been said is this: **we have such a high priest**, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.**" (Hebrews 8:1-2, NASB95)

*We can now be introduced to our Tour Guide. If you have passed the spiritual exam and were issued a ticket, we can walk with the Tour Guide into The Tabernacle. He will show us the way, illuminate the truth and grant us new life in Him...*

"Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."** (John 14:6, NASB95)

*Remember, only priests can enter the Tabernacle. We can enter on the Tour when we have become priests in the Kingdom of God in Christ.*

*Now let's meet the High Priest.*

## 12. TOUR GUIDE: THE HIGH PRIEST

The high priest was required to follow specific rules and regulations in order to enter The Tabernacle. Various sacrifices and washings had to be performed before approaching the Tent of Meeting (The Tabernacle) and entering into the Presence of God. The priest had to be totally washed with water, sprinkled with blood from the sacrifice and then anointed with oil before he could enter The Tabernacle. Blood from the sacrifice was also sprinkled on every piece of The Tabernacle's Furniture as well as being anointed with oil. Any deviation from the protocol God prescribed would result in the death of the priest.

The following passage gives us a glimpse into the specific and detailed instructions and the multiple sacrifices that had to be made before the high priest could enter The Tabernacle.

" Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the Lord and died. The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. **"Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.** "He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on. "He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel **two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.** "Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household. "He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the doorway of the tent of meeting. "Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. "Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the Lord fell, and make it a sin offering. "But **the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.** "Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself. "He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil. "He shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, otherwise he will die. "Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. "He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities. "When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel. "Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides. "With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it. "When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the

live goat. "Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness. "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness. "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there. "He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people. "Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar. "The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp. "But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire. "Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp." (Leviticus 16:1-28, NASB95)

Every one of these detailed instructions had to be followed without any deviation. The point is that God required a whole set of instructions to come into His Presence. The Old Tabernacle and its protocol were only shadows for the regulations for the New Tabernacle. Before the priest could enter The Old Tabernacle it required the blood of multiple sacrifices.

The High Priest in the New Testament made the way open for us by shedding His own blood. He took the place of all the instructions, sacrifices and protocol. In this sense, our High Priest is not only the Priest but He is also the complete sacrifice. The sacrifice Jesus made satisfied all the requirements to enter into the Presence of God. His blood covers us so that we can walk with Him right into the Most Holy Place without fear of death. Jesus is the protocol for coming into the Presence of God. By understanding the Law's detail in the Old Testament, Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross becomes very significant in how we can meet the requirements of the Law.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**" "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.'" (John 1:29-31, NASB95)

Jesus came as the Lamb to take away our sin and He is also our High Priest. How did the Lamb, our sacrifice, become our High Priest? The glorious truth is that the Lamb did not stay dead. He rose from the dead through the resurrection to become our High Priest.

" Now the main point in what has been said is this: **we have such a high priest**, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." **But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.**" (Hebrews 8:1-6, NASB95)



If Jesus died and remained dead, His death for us would be meaningless. He would have been an innocent misguided martyr for the things He taught. With Jesus' resurrection He conquered sin and death and took away the penalty of sin for us. Jesus made the way open for us to enter into the Presence of God. The door has been open for us to be forgiven and know God personally.

"But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NASB95)

Jesus Christ is our High Priest and He is the Tour Guide for our tour through The Tabernacle.

*Our Tour Guide is actually the High Priest, Jesus Christ. He is not only The High Priest, but He offered Himself as the Sacrifice for our entry into The Tabernacle and the Presence of God. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world AND by His resurrection from the dead He conquered sin and death and is now our High Priest.*

### 13. TOUR MAP: SEVEN QUALITIES AND SEVEN PIECES OF FURNITURE

Various numbers have special significance in the Bible. God uses the number seven as a number that refers to completeness in the Bible. He created and completed all of Creation in seven days. There are seven days in one complete week. There were seven pairs of clean animals taken with Noah on the Ark. There are seven Lampstands, Spirits, Trumpets, Seals and Churches in the Book of Revelation. The number seven is used all through the Scripture as a number to refer to being complete or whole. God loves the complete number seven. (See **SIDE TOUR 6: Number Seven**).

A relationship can be drawn between two sets of sevens, one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. These sets of seven's are an example of how the Old and New Testaments and Tabernacles correspond to each other. God directed the protocol for entering the Old Tabernacle through one set of sevens. He has also given a protocol or pattern to enter the New Tabernacle through another set of sevens. These two "sets" give insight into our relationship and life in God.

II Peter describes seven distinct qualities that give us a pattern for the believer (the New Tabernacle) to enter into God's Presence. God's desire is that we don't fall away from Him through unbelief but to stay in a close relationship with Him. The Bible exhorts us to diligently pursue these qualities and apply them in love to our lives. As these qualities are pursued and applied, the Bible promises that a believer will never stumble in a walk with Christ. These New Testament seven qualities are:

- 1.) Faith
- 2.) Moral Excellence (Virtue)
- 3.) Knowledge
- 4.) Self-Control
- 5.) Perseverance
- 6.) Godliness
- 7.) Kindness

In the Old Testament The Tabernacle had pieces of furniture that represent another set of seven. The Furniture was specifically placed on the path from the Outer Court into the Most Holy Place. The pattern, materials and significance of The Furniture were prescribed by God and given to Moses to build. The seven pieces of Furniture are:

- 1.) The Brazen Altar
- 2.) The Laver
- 3.) The Golden Lampstand
- 4.) The Table of Showbread
- 5.) The Altar of Incense
- 6.) The Ark of the Covenant
- 7.) The Mercy Seat

There is a correlation between these “sets” of seven. During the Tour our Tour Guide will explain the relationship between the following:

Faith	<b>and</b>	The Brazen Altar
Moral Excellence	<b>and</b>	The Laver
Knowledge	<b>and</b>	The Golden Lampstand
Self-Control	<b>and</b>	The Table of Showbread
Perseverance	<b>and</b>	The Altar of Incense
Godliness	<b>and</b>	The Ark of the Covenant
Kindness	<b>and</b>	The Mercy Seat

*Seven qualities and seven pieces of Furniture corresponding to each other. II Peter 1 tells us that the seven qualities are to be diligently pursued and applied in our lives in love. God is love and He will help us in the pursuit and application of these qualities.*

## 14. THE TABERNACLE TOUR

Now, let's begin the Tour through the Old and New Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle gives us a blueprint or pattern to come into God's Presence. Our High Priest will direct the Tour because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Just as there was a pattern of worship for the Old Tabernacle, there is a protocol pattern for the New Tabernacle.

"Now even the first covenant had **regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.**" (Hebrews 9:1, NASB95)

"But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through **His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**" (Hebrews 9:11-14, NASB95)

First, let's check our hearts. Remember we have been made priests in Jesus' Kingdom allowing us to enter into His courts. Psalm 100 tells us to come into God's courts with praise and thanksgiving.

**"Shout joyfully to the Lord,** all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with **joyful singing.** Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. **Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.** For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100, NASB95)

As we enter the Outer Court with praise (recognizing who God is) and thanksgiving (recognizing what God has done) we must remember that The Tabernacle was made from gifts from those who freely gave their resources. Likewise, those that come to God must believe that He is and He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We do not come by coercion but we are drawn by the Father to Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit. We then can freely give ourselves to God.

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a **rewarder of those who seek Him.**" (Hebrews 11:6, NASB95)

**"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:44, NASB95)

"But **as many as received Him,** to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13, NASB95)

We think that receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior is an act of our free will. The truth is that we are actually drawn to God as He works in us. Our responsibility is to willingly and completely give our lives to Him. The Holy Spirit sends an invitation to anyone who will hear His voice. Just as Jesus stood at the door of the Laodicean Church in the Book of Revelation, Jesus stands at the door

of the heart and knocks. If we hear Him, He will come into our lives. He transfers us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom and domain of Jesus Christ. How do we hear Him? We can hear Him by first believing that He exists. Our faith comes by hearing and our hearing is opened by the Word of God.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17, NASB95)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20, NASB95)

A time will soon come when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Those that do not know Him will be forced to their knees. Those that have received Him willingly will be rewarded with eternal life. Either way, every knee will bow and recognize Jesus as Lord.

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11, NASB95)

"**He who believes in the Son has eternal life**; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36, NASB95)

Although God loves us and sent His Son to die on the Cross for us, those that refuse Him will not be in His Presence for the rest of eternity. The Bible describes the suffering for those who have refused God and are outside His Presence with the term "weeping and gnashing of the teeth".

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out **the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**" (Matthew 13:47-50, NASB95)

### \*\*\*CAUTION\*\*\*

The Tabernacle Tour has the potential of changing your heart and life. God will perform a supernatural work in your heart if you will allow Him. Your life will never be the same if you enter in and embrace the truths of The Tabernacle.

God invites those that put their trust and faith in Jesus Christ to go on this Tour. He has personally paid the price for admission by His blood.

### NOTE:

*As with any tour, The Tabernacle Tour will not have every detail explained or exhaust all the insights and applications for every aspect of The Tabernacle. The Tour Guide will point out some points of interest and highlights. He invites you to study the subject on your own for further insights and applications. The Tour Guide is more than willing to spend time with you personally and give you more information.*

*The Tour Guide's comments, insights and applications will be indicated by" **TOUR GUIDE:**"*

## 15. ADMISSION TICKET: TABERNACLE PROTOCOL

The Tour Guide, our High Priest, allows only those that know Him personally to go on the Tabernacle Tour. The High Priest qualifies each person that receives Him and makes them a priest in His Kingdom. A person is not qualified by their own righteousness or good works but by the imputed (or credited; not earned) righteousness of Christ. Man's righteousness and all our good works done in the flesh cannot earn or buy a "ticket" on the Tour. Our Tour Guide, the High Priest of our salvation, Jesus Christ qualifies us and clothes us with His righteousness when we put our trust in Him. He has bought the ticket for the Tour with His blood.

Paul, the Apostle, in the Book of Corinthians said that he did not want to know anything among the Church at Corinth except Jesus Christ and the mighty work He did on the Cross. He knew that the way to know God is by knowing Jesus Christ. We enter The Tabernacle by the broken body of Jesus Christ and the blood He spilled for us.

"For I determined to know nothing among you **except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.**"  
(1 Corinthians 2:2, NASB95)

Paul knew that the ticket to the final destination in the Tour was in Christ. The word "in" in the Scriptures is one of the biggest words in the Bible. In Him, in Christ, in Christ Jesus is the safest and most secure place in life. Not only is Christ in us but we are in Him. In Him is the fullest joy possible for a person to experience. No one comes to the Father except by being "in" Jesus Christ and Him being "in" them.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father but through Me.**" (John 14:6, NASB95)

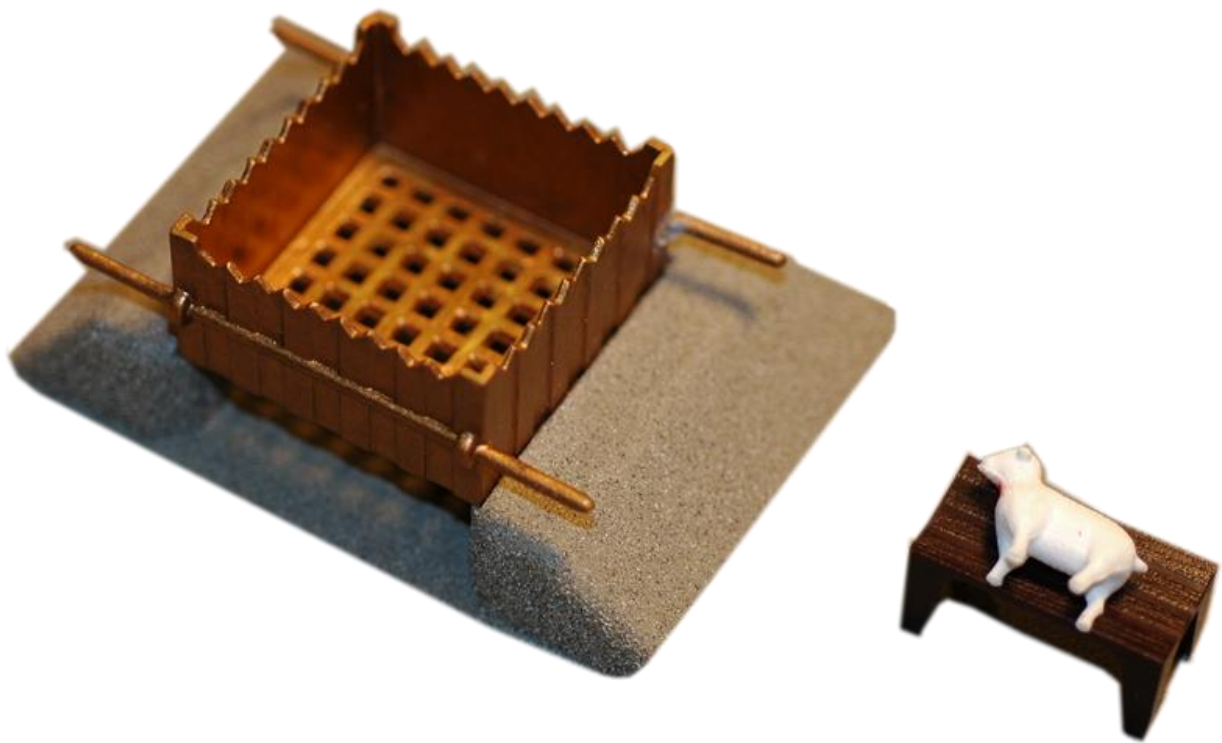
"You will make known to me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy;** In Your right hand there are pleasures forever." (Psalm 16:11, NASB95)

*We can begin the Tour. Buckle 'in'. The Tour Guide has paid the admission price for us. He as The High Priest knows The Tabernacle better than anyone. We are very privileged to have Him as our personal guide.*

*Since we have been made a royal priesthood in Christ, we can enter into the Outer Court of The Tabernacle. We approach the door to the Outer Court from the east. The Outer Court is approximately 75 feet wide and 150 feet long. There are 60 posts holding a 7 foot tall curtain that makes the wall of the Outer Court. The eastern opening is about 10 feet wide covered by a colorful curtain. As we walk through the opening we come to the first piece of Furniture, The Brazen Altar.*

## 16. TOUR STOP ONE

# Faith at The Brazen Altar





## TOUR STOP 1: FAITH at THE BRAZEN ALTAR

" "And you shall make the **altar of acacia wood**, five cubits long and five cubits wide; the altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall **overlay it with bronze**. "You shall make its pails for removing its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of **bronze**. "You shall make for it a grating of network of **bronze**, and on the net you shall make four **bronze** rings at its four corners. "You shall put it beneath, under the ledge of the altar, so that the net will reach halfway up the altar. "You shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with **bronze**. "Its poles shall be inserted into the rings, so that the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar when it is carried. "You shall make it hollow with planks; as it was shown to you in the mountain, so they shall make it." (Exodus 27:1-8, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The door opening to the Outer Court is made of colorful linen in crimson, blue and purple. The colors of the opening veil represent the Lord Jesus in His three offices, Priest (crimson), Prophet (blue) and King (purple). The way into the courtyard called the Outer Court is through Jesus Christ.

"So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**. "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:7-10, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Inside the Outer Court, the first stop on The Tabernacle Tour is at a piece of Furniture called The Brazen Altar. The Brazen Altar was used to offer the sacrifices prescribed by the Law that atoned for the sins of the people. 'Atone' means 'to pay the penalty'; 'to make amends and reconcile'. Atonement reconciles man to God by what Christ did on the Cross. In the Old Testament ritual sacrifices of various animals were performed at this location. Without the shedding of blood there was no forgiveness for sin. Sacrifices had to be performed regularly because people continued to sin. These sacrifices, unfortunately, did not give a person the power to stop sinning.

The Brazen Altar was made of wood covered by bronze. Bronze is a mixed metal of copper and tin. Everything that touched the ground in the Outer Court was made of bronze. The sockets for the boards of the curtain fence, the Furniture and furnishings, the pegs for the fence and Tent of Meeting were all made of bronze.

The Brazen Altar represents a place of execution. Animals were killed and sacrificed on The Brazen Altar. The question is why would animals be killed here?



Sin causes death in the relationships between God and mankind, between people and between mankind and nature. Sin leads to death. When Adam and Eve sinned, they covered themselves with leaves. When God found them, He killed animals and clothed them with their skins. In other words, some animals lost their lives due to Adam and Eve sinning. All through the Old Testament blood was shed as the payment for sin.

"The Lord God made **garments of skin** for Adam and his wife, and clothed them." (Genesis 3:21, NASB95)

Sacrifices were made at the Brazen Altar and were the payment for sin as required by God's Law. The penalty for sin was the death of the sacrifice. Sacrifices had to be offered regularly in order to atone or pay for the sins of the people. Some would argue that God was cruel in requiring a death for sin but God was emphasizing the fact that sin causes death. The biggest consequence of our sin is the death of our relationship with God. God provided a way to resolve the issue of sin. The Old way was the offering of sacrifices over and over on The Brazen Altar according to the Law.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Immanuel or God with us in the person of Jesus Christ is a mixture. He is totally God and came as totally Man. He briefly humbled Himself and came to earth as a Man but was entirely without sin. God came and set His feet upon the earth that He had made in order to redeem those on the earth. Bronze represents this dual nature of Jesus when He came to earth as totally God and totally Man. Bronze was the material used to show God touching earth. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus appeared to John and His feet were bronze.

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. **His feet were like burnished bronze**, when it has been made to glow in a furnace and His voice was like the sound of many waters." (Revelation 1:12-15, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The New Tabernacle has an altar where a single sacrifice was made. An offering was made on The Brazen Altar in the New Testament. The One offered on this altar was the precious Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. He came and set His feet on the earth for our sakes. The God who came and lived as a sinless Man was the offering for our sin. The Lamb of God was slain on the Cross for our sin. In Him we have the forgiveness for our sins. Animals are no longer sacrificed for sin like in the Old Testament. Even while we were yet sinners, Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. What the commands of the Law could not do by sacrificing all those animals, God did by sending His Son to be the sacrificial Lamb once and for all. He who had no sin gave His life so that we might become righteous or in right standing with God. Our sin's penalty was paid by the death of an innocent Lamb, Jesus Christ.

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**" (2 Corinthians 5:21, NASB95)

Jesus was on earth as God and Man and was without sin. Only one without sin could pay the penalty for all mankind. Through Adam in the Garden of Eden sin entered the world. Through the "second" Adam, Jesus Christ, sin can be forgiven.

" But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:20-22, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The righteousness of God is imparted or given to us. It is not a result of any work we have done but a gift by His mercy. As we put our trust in Jesus and the work He did on the Cross, God gives us repentance and faith.

We live in a day that faith is preached without requiring repentance. Charles Spurgeon taught that "faith" and "repentance" are like twin sisters. You cannot have one without the other. If you have true "faith" you will have repented. If you "repent" you have faith in God's finished work. Repentance means to 'turn around'. We must turn around from walking in the world (outside the Outer Court) and face towards God (in The Tabernacle). If we continue to live outside the walls of the Outer Court, we don't know God. We will wander aimlessly in the wilderness of our sin without Him.

Our High Priest invites us to identify with Him at The Brazen Altar (the Cross). The High Priest's desire is to have us identified with Him and what He did on the Cross. By faith we are to be "sacrificed" with Him on the altar so that we can walk in relationship with Him. As we die to self, we are freed up to live for Him.

**"I have been crucified with Christ;** and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20, NASB95)

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,** acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Some people live as if death is an option and life is a guarantee. Real life is dying to our self and living for God. Death isn't an option that can be avoided by wishing it weren't true. Our physical life is a gift from God. Eternal life is also a gift from God. If we are born once we will die twice (physically and spiritually), but if we are born twice (physically and spiritually) we may only die physically.

"And inasmuch as it is appointed for **men to die once** and after this comes judgment," (Hebrews 9:27, NASB95)

Remember we are in the Outer Court at The Brazen Altar. The Holy Spirit is urging us to present our bodies to God in the course of our spiritual service of worship. The "sacrifice" is giving our bodies to God by faith. In other words, we give over to Jesus the right to be the boss of our lives. He takes the driver's seat and we surrender to His direction for our lives. The entrance into God's Tabernacle is through this door.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The only guarantee of eternal life is approaching God through the door He has made. The door is the finished work Jesus accomplished on the Cross.

"So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. "I am the door; **if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**" (John 10:7-9, NASB95)

The first stop in the Old Tabernacle is the beginning of the Tour. The Brazen Altar is associated with Faith in the New Tabernacle. As we put our faith in the finished work of the Cross, we gain entrance into the Kingdom of God. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Jesus imputes His righteousness to us when we place our faith in Him. Faith in Christ is the beginning of the journey into the New Tabernacle just as The Brazen Altar is the beginning of the Tour into the Old Tabernacle.

**"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."**  
(Hebrews 11:1, NASB95)

**"...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,** who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2, NASB95)

### **TOUR GUIDE: Jesus Christ's DUAL ROLE**

"He is ALIVE!! He is RISEN!!"

Mary declared that Jesus was alive and risen from the dead after His crucifixion. She ran to the disciples and told them that she had seen Jesus alive. Although Jesus had died and was buried, three days later He was alive. Jesus conquered death and had come back to life.

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened." (Luke 24:1-12, NASB95)

In the Tabernacle, Jesus serves a dual role. He is the sacrificial Lamb and He is the High Priest.

Jesus is the Lamb that was sent by God to be our sacrifice for sin. For this purpose, He humbled Himself and became a Man.

**"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** (Philippians 2:5-8, NASB95)

In the Old Testament, a sacrificial lamb would be killed. The lamb would be burned on The Brazen Altar and would no longer exist. Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was the offering or sacrifice on 'The Brazen Altar' (i.e. the Cross). The Lamb of God was killed on our behalf but did not stay dead. He

rose from the grave. Now He is now our High Priest and continues forever to make intercession for us. The holy, innocent, undefiled High Priest offered up Himself as the sacrificial Lamb and is now the One who leads us into the Presence of God.

"The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. **Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.** For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever." (Hebrews 7:23-28, NASB95)

Because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, He serves the dual role of being the sacrificial Lamb of God and our High Priest in The Tabernacle.

*Our Tour Guide, the High Priest, was actually the Sacrifice? Amazing.*

*The Bible says we are to "diligently" add the Tour Stop qualities to our lives. "Diligence" means "earnestness in accomplishing"; "interest one's self most earnestly"; "hasten to". In other words, we need to make it our business to add these qualities to our lives. The first quality is faith in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. If we are to be attentive about anything in our lives, we should pursue our faith in Christ diligently. For a follower of Christ this is not optional but a matter of obedience to God. As we walk through The Tabernacle, we will see the value of the qualities we are to diligently add to our lives. We will see the value of seeking the face of God...diligently.*

*"Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence...**"  
(2 Peter 1:5, NASB95)*

*Our first stop begins with Faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on "The Brazen Altar" (the Cross).*

## **TOUR STOP SUMMARY: The Brazen Altar is where Faith begins...**

The Brazen Altar is where animals were killed and given as a sacrifice and burnt offering to God. These sacrifices were to atone or redeem the people for their sins. Sin results in death. Similarly, Jesus was offered as the Lamb of God on God's Brazen Altar, the Cross, for our sin. Sin was paid for by the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. The Tour begins by understanding that repentance from sin and faith in God starts a walk with God.

"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a **foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**"  
(Hebrews 6:1, NASB95)

Faith is putting our trust in what God has done for us. It is a gift of God:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God;** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9, NASB95)

Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. He is the starting point in our relationship with God and will be with us to the end:

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the **author and perfecter of faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2, NASB95)

Jesus has risen from the dead and intercedes on our behalf as the High Priest. In His death He bought our salvation and now in His resurrection He is our advocate:

"The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because **He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently**. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them**. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever." (Hebrews 7:23-28, NASB95)

*Now once we have placed our trust and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we can move to the second stop on our Tour. We follow the risen High Priest to the next stop. The Bible says we are to be diligent in adding or supplying to our Faith this second Stop on the Tour...Virtue or Moral Excellence.*

**17. TOUR STOP TWO**

**Moral Excellence  
at  
The Laver**





## TOUR STOP 2: VIRTUE (MORAL EXCELLENCE) at the LAVER

"The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "You shall also make a **laver of bronze**, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. "Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the Lord. "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."" (Exodus 30:17-21, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The second stop on our Tour is The Laver. The Laver is located between the Brazen Altar and the door opening of The Tabernacle. The Laver is where the priests would wash before entering The Tabernacle. "Laver" means washings.

""You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. "Aaron and his sons shall **wash their hands and their feet from it**; when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the Lord. "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."" (Exodus 30:18-21, NASB95)

The priests were commanded to wash before entering The Tabernacle. The high priest would be washed completely before putting on the priestly garments. All priests were to wash their hands and feet before entering The Tabernacle to perform The Tabernacle's daily duties. The washings were an integral part of the protocol for entering the Tabernacle and the consequences of not washing were very severe.

The Laver was between The Brazen Altar and the doorway to the Tent of Meeting, The Tabernacle. The sacrifices were performed at The Brazen Altar and washings were performed at The Laver.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The priests were to wash their hands and their feet. Our hands represent what we "do" and our feet represent where we "go". What we do and where we go is important to God. He wants us to reflect Christ in the world. Many times the only 'Bibles' other people read is seeing the life of a follower of Christ. Our actions speak louder than our words. Only Jesus lived a perfect life on earth, but He has chosen to use us, His imperfect vessels, to demonstrate His life and character. After we are saved by faith, the Holy Spirit begins to give us insight into what should change in our lives. We need to remember that we are a work in progress. We can confidently say, "please be patient, God is not finished with me yet".

## Washings and Baptisms

After we place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are to identify with Christ in a 'washing'. The washing in the New Testament following Salvation is water baptism. Water baptism is a public expression of our identification with Jesus Christ and declares our desire to follow Him.

"Peter said to them, **"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."" (Acts 2:38-39, NASB95)

Water baptism does not save a person from their sin. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the means by which a person becomes a Christ follow. Some may teach that if a person is baptized as a child they are somehow automatically incorporated into the Body of Christ as a Christian. Water baptism does not come before salvation. Repentance from sin precedes water baptism. A person is baptized in water after he has put his trust in Christ. Baptizing children before they are capable of repenting on their own does not save them.

Another teaching surrounding water baptism is that a person receives some spiritual power or merit in water baptism. Water and a few spiritual words do not save a person from their sins. The Scripture teaches that the only power of water baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus' command to be baptized.

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:18-20, NASB95)

Water baptism is an outward declaration and identification with the work that Jesus did on the Cross for us. Following Christ in water baptism is telling the world that a person wants to follow Jesus and be His disciple.

## Discipleship

A disciple is one who follows and is taught or instructed by a master. Those that follow Jesus as His disciples are taught to follow Him and do the things that please Him. A key to discipleship is learning that no one can live the Christian life in their own strength. Trying to do the "do's" and not do the "don't's" leads to bondage and a dead religious life. Jesus is the only One who can live the Christian life. As we die to self we can then allow Jesus to live His life in and through us by the Holy Spirit.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The New Tabernacle has "washings" that are required in our walk with Christ. We begin to 'wash' away our old life and put on the new life in Christ by following in Jesus' footsteps. As stated before, Discipleship follows Salvation. Being a 'disciple' is to be a learner, pupil or follower of a master. Becoming a disciple of Christ means we begin to learn and do things God's way.

We live the Christian life and become like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is our teacher and He comes alongside to comfort, help and train us in our discipleship journey. Discipleship



involves having our character changed; our morality changed; our way of life changed from following the world to following Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the change agent for those changes and our character development. He is the One who makes us virtuous. He is the One who makes us like our High Priest. Jesus said He needed to leave so that He could send the Holy Spirit so that He can live in those that follow Jesus. We proclaim Jesus by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.** If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:9-11, NASB95)

The Holy Spirit may dwell in us at Salvation but there is more work that The Holy Spirit desires to do in our lives. He may be resident in us but is He allowed to be president. He desires to guide us in the way we should go (washing our feet) and give us strength in what we do (washing our hands). Just as the priests were to wash before entering The Tabernacle, the Holy Spirit desires to give us power to live the Christian life.

**"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Baptism in the Holy Spirit is inviting and allowing the power of God to fill us for living the Christian life and ministry to others. The filling of the Holy Spirit is relying on His strength instead of our own. Jesus said that out of our bellies would flow rivers of living water. The water He spoke of was the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

""He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, **'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'** " **But this He spoke of the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:38-39, NASB95)

Living the Christian life is not just practicing some religious rituals. The Christian life is allowing Jesus to have His way in our lives by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our 'discipler' or trainer and points us to Jesus. He washes the way we go (our feet) and what we do (our hands) by convicting us of sin and leading us in the paths of righteousness for the sake of Christ.

""And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;" (John 16:8, NASB95)

The Holy Spirit works into our lives the holiness and virtue of God. The Scriptures tell us to diligently add to our faith, virtue or moral excellence. We can't do that in our own strength. Since our righteousness is like filthy rags before God, we need the righteousness of God applied in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

"For all of us have become like one who is unclean, **And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;** And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away." (Isaiah 64:6, NASB95)

After we are transferred by faith from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of our High Priest, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit begins His work of conforming us to Christ. We can cooperate with Him or resist Him. We can obey Him or offend Him.

"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;" (Romans 8:29, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Holy Spirit lives up to His Name. He is holy and He wants us to be holy. The Greek word 'hagios' translated "holy" means "to be set apart". The Holy Spirit prompted Paul, the apostle, to use a word for 'holy' that was formerly used for male and female temple prostitutes. These prostitutes offered their bodies and were 'hagios' or "set apart" for the purpose of the "worship" of false gods as people came to give themselves body and soul to the idols.

Contrary to the immoral practice of worshipping idols, we have been "set apart" for God and His purposes. Our bodies and lives are set apart for the worship of God and not idols. We are not set apart for the purposes of being immoral, but the Holy Spirit works in us His Godly behavior. The same root word 'hagios' is used for "saint" or "holy one". We are saints in Christ and God wants us to act that way by pursuing His virtues (moral excellence). These virtues are not a natural expression of our flesh. These virtues are grown in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

"As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior**; because it is written, **"You shall be holy, for I am holy."**" (1 Peter 1:14-16, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Holy Spirit works in us to bring our morality into conformity with God's morality. We do not get to continue doing what is right in our own eyes and think that we will see God 'face to face'. The new standard for those in Christ is God's standard. We leave behind our concepts of morality and what we think is right and wrong and begin to see things from God's perspective. How can we know what is right and wrong in God's eyes? The prophet Amos says that God has a "plumb line" or ruler that all things are measured against. The plumb line is God's Word and is His standard for holiness and His virtues.

"Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand. "The Lord said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold **I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people** Israel. I will spare them no longer. "The high places of Isaac will be desolated And the sanctuaries of Israel laid waste. Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."" (Amos 7:7-9, NASB95)

God's Word does not compromise in the area of moral excellence. We live in a day where promiscuity and sexual immorality run riot. We need the plumb line of God's Word to give us a standard for living and to know what is right and wrong for our behavior.

"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the **immoral man sins against his own body**." (1 Corinthians 6:18, NASB95)

"But **flee from these things**, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness." (1 Timothy 6:11, NASB95)

Continuing in willful sin, knowing that God may forgive us, offends the Holy Spirit. His goal is for us to have a pure heart which will motivate us to live holy lives just like He is holy.

**"Now flee** from youthful lusts **and pursue** righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22, NASB95)

"What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:1-3, NASB95)

"but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;** because it is written, **"You shall be holy, for I am holy."**" (1 Peter 1:15-16, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Laver was filled with water. Water is also symbolically related to the work of the Holy Spirit. We are water baptized as a reflection of our identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Our baptism in the Holy Spirit is the inward identification with filling and power to live and minister in His Name. We can invite the Holy Spirit to fill us and empower us to live a morally excellent life. The filling of the Holy Spirit is not earned nor is He given only after a person cleans up their own life. It is actually impossible to live the Christian life in our own strength. The Holy Spirit lives the life of Christ in and through us.

""And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning **sin and righteousness and judgment**; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "But when He, **the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." (John 16:8-13, NASB95)

Jesus said that out of our bellies will flow rivers of living water. As the Holy Spirit fills us, we overflow with Spirit-filled love for God and others.

""He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow **rivers of living water.**' ""  
(John 7:38, NASB95)

"and hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**" (Romans 5:5, NASB95)

God continues His work in us for His glory by adding moral excellence to our faith.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The next stop on the Tour takes us into the Tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting. Approaching and entering the Tabernacle was reserved for priests and they were only from a particular lineage. God has made us a kingdom of priests in His Kingdom. He has called people from every tongue, tribe and nation to be part of His "lineage". As we enter holy ground we must be mindful that it is not based on how good we are. It is based on what our High Priest did for us on the Cross. We have been incorporated into the Tribe of our High Priest by His broken Body and shed Blood.

"and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— and **He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father**—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (Revelation 1:5-6, NASB95)

"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, **consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession**; He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all His house (**i.e. the Old Tabernacle JR**) as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house (**i.e. the New Tabernacle JR**)—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end." (Hebrews 3:1-6, NASB95)

**Note: JR = comment by Author.**

#### **TOUR STOP SUMMARY: The Laver of Virtue...**

The Laver is where the washings were done before entering The Tabernacle. The Brazen Altar and Laver were located in the Outer Court which surrounded the Tabernacle. The priests were to have their hands and feet washed before entering The Tabernacle to perform their duties. These washings represent what we do (hands) and where we go (feet). In other words, our lives need to be led by the Holy Spirit and not our own way.

The character of God needs to be formed in us after we have come to know God. The character of Jesus is formed in us by the Holy Spirit. As we allow Him to fill us we will begin to grow the fruit of the Spirit and manifest Jesus' likeness. The life in Christ is not just avoiding sin but it is pursuing God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. As we face towards God we turn our back on the temptations of the world and the unfruitful deeds of darkness.

We are invited to drink deeply from the Laver daily in order to progress in our life in God. We are to be filled with the Spirit consistently and constantly. As saints, holy and separated unto God, walking in the Spirit allows us to avoid walking in the flesh.

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but be (being or ongoing JR) filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-21, NASB95)

"But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh**. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such**

**things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."** (Galatians 5:16-24, NASB95)

The Christian life is having the life of Christ formed in us by the Holy Spirit. We cannot know or confess Jesus as our Lord without the Holy Spirit.

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.** If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**" (Romans 8:9-11, NASB95)

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit resides in us. He may be in us but we may not be immersed in Him. We are invited to ask the Holy Spirit to baptize or immerse ourselves in Him. On the one hand the Holy Spirit is in us at Salvation. On the other, we can be immersed in the Holy Spirit for the purpose of His power and strength. It is impossible for us to live the Christian life in our own strength. There is only One who can live this life. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live the Christian life in Him and He empowers us for living and service.

"but **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."" (Acts 1:8, NASB95)

"Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" (Acts 2:38, NASB95)

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4, NASB95)

*We entered the Outer Court and came by way of The Brazen Altar (Faith) to the Laver (Virtue). Drink deeply of the waters of life.*

""He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, '**From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.**' ""  
(John 7:38, NASB95)

*After being refreshed by the water of the Spirit of God we can now open the curtain at the entrance of The Tabernacle. Our lives are made up of much more than what we see and experience on the outside. We now move inside into The Tabernacle's Holy Place (our Soul) from the Outer Court (our Body). The soul (our mind, will and emotions) is a battlefield where either Christ or the devil will control. The Furniture in the Tabernacle will help us to stand firm in our position in Christ.*

*Please listen to the voice of our Tour Guide. He will lead and guide us into all Truth. He is very patient so feel free to ask Him any question you like. His explanations will always be consistent with who He is and what He has done as recorded in the Bible. Let's follow our Tour Guide as He opens the curtain and we move into the tent, The Tabernacle.*

## 18. TOUR STOP THREE

# Knowledge at The Lampstand





### TOUR STOP 3: KNOWLEDGE at the LAMPSTAND

" "Then you shall make a **lampstand of pure gold**. The lampstand and its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. "Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side. "Three cups shall be shaped like almond blossoms in the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bulb and a flower—so for six branches going out from the lampstand; and in the lampstand four cups shaped like almond blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers. "A bulb shall be under the first pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the second pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the third pair of branches coming out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. "Their bulbs and their branches shall be of one piece with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. "Then you shall make its lamps seven in number; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it. "Its snuffers and their trays shall be of pure gold. "It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. "See that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain." (Exodus 25:31-40, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** As we step inside the Tabernacle and look to our left we see a lampstand. There is a center lamp shaft with three arms coming out of each side. The stand and each arm is a lamp making seven lamps on The Lampstand. The light from The Lampstand was fueled by pure olive oil. The priests would trim The Lampstand every morning and every evening. The Lampstand was the source of light for The Tabernacle.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Scriptures emphasize that The Lampstand was made of pure gold. Why pure gold? Gold represents God's love and perfection. When Jesus as the Light came into the world, it was on the basis of His pure, perfect love for us.

**"For God so loved the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NASB95)

There is a tendency to rush to the end of the verse where it talks about everlasting life. Let us stop and consider that the Word (God's Knowledge) was made flesh and shined the knowledge of God into the world. He came because "God so LOVED the world...". Even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Although the light shined in the darkness of people's lives, the darkness did not comprehend that God loves us.

The Lampstand was made out of hammered or beaten pure gold. Jesus as the Light of the world was also "hammered" (i.e. "beaten") out of love for us. He was bruised for our iniquities (i.e. our sin and transgressions against God) so that the Light of God could shine into our lives. Our High Priest,



the Light of the world, was sacrificed for us. The Word, that is, the Knowledge of God, gave Himself for us so that we might know God.

"Now this was the workmanship of the lampstand, **hammered work of gold**; from its base to its flowers it was hammered work; according to the pattern which the Lord had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand." (Numbers 8:4, NASB95)

"But He was **pierced** through for our transgressions, He was **crushed** for our iniquities; The **chastening** for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His **scourging** we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Lampstand was the source of light for The Tabernacle. As the Lampstand was the light in The Tabernacle, so Jesus came into the world as the Light of God. The world did not know Him, understand Him or receive Him. The world actually rejected His Light.

"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**" (John 1:4-5, NASB95)

"There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**" (John 1:9-11, NASB95)

The light of God's knowledge is seen in His light. The Light of God shines into our lives the knowledge of God and enlightens our lives. God said:

"'While I am in the world, **I am the Light** of the world.'" (John 9:5, NASB95)

The Light of God gives light to our path in our pursuit of God and His Presence. The light is the knowledge and ways of God. Our natural mind cannot understand the ways of God. God reveals Himself to us through Jesus Christ.

"O send out **Your light and Your truth**, let them lead me; **Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.**" (Psalm 43:3, NASB95)

"**The unfolding of Your words gives light**; It gives understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119:130, NASB95)

"For **You light my lamp**; The Lord my God **illumines my darkness.**" (Psalm 18:28, NASB95)

"For with You is the fountain of life; **In Your light we see light.**" (Psalm 36:9, NASB95)

The Lampstand was the source of light in The Tabernacle. The Lampstand illumined the entire Tabernacle and was trimmed with olive oil morning and night to give a continual source of light. Unlike a candle that has a wick and is consumed, the oil was replenished to give constant light in The Tabernacle.

Jesus is the continual source of light for our souls as the Light of God. Just as The Lampstand was made out of pure gold, Jesus shines the pure love of God and reveals to us the knowledge of God.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Jesus is the Wisdom of God that came to earth. He is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Jesus is called the Word of God and became a human being and lived on earth.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5, NASB95)

### **Mind Set on Him**

The Word and the Light come together in Jesus Christ. He illumines the darkness of our minds by giving us His Word. Our thought life is a critical battlefield and is influenced and directed by the Spirit of God or by our natural life. What we let our minds dwell on influences who we are as a person. We end up becoming like what we think.

"For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you." (Proverbs 23:7, NASB95)

Our minds are to be set on the things that are of God's Kingdom and not just the everyday things of this life. That means we let our minds dwell on who Jesus is and what He has done and is doing in our lives.

**"Set your mind** on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." (Colossians 3:2, NASB95)

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, **but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace**, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so," (Romans 8:5-7, NASB95)

How can we set our minds on Christ? How do we get our minds out of our natural, fleshly thinking? One key is to have our minds transformed as we present ourselves to God as His priests. We have the choice to set our minds on the world or the things of God.

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship**. And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2, NASB95)

Another key for setting our minds on the things above is to take every thought captive and weigh it against God's Word. When we stop and actually evaluate our thoughts, we can begin to choose what will control our minds. The only power of the will is the ability to choose. What we choose will influence and dominate our thinking.

"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:5, NASB95)

"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve**: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."" (Joshua 24:15, NASB95)

After we take our thoughts captive, we need our thoughts compared against an objective standard. The only way we can evaluate our thinking is to have a good measurement tool. God's Word gives us a scale that we can weigh and measure our thoughts against:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, **whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things**. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:6-9, NASB95)

How can we know when to dwell on a thought or reject one? God's Word acts like a 'scale' to weigh our thoughts against. Some questions that can be asked in order to weigh our thoughts are:

- **True:** Are these thoughts we're thinking actually true? Do these thoughts agree with reality or are we stretching or misrepresenting the truth?
- **Honorable:** Do these thoughts bring honor to the Lord or are they detracting from Him or His standards? Would we want others to see what we are thinking? Does this thought glorify us or God?
- **Right:** Do our thoughts justify ourselves and accuse others? Are we rationalizing our thinking or behavior? Does this thought promote our righteousness or God's righteousness?
- **Pure:** Are these holy thoughts or do they defile us? Are they worldly or Godly thoughts?
- **Lovely:** Do these thoughts bring praise to the Lord? Will this thought lead to loving God and others?
- **Good Repute:** If this thought was acted out, would we want others to copy it? Does it bring glory to Jesus or our own self?
- **Excellent:** Does this thought draw me closer to God? Does this good thought get in the way of what is best for my walk with God?
- **Praiseworthy:** What would God say about this thought? Will this thought lead me to praise and worship of God or center on me and my will?

Our thoughts are not our own. Our thoughts lead to actions and habits that have real spiritual consequences. The sin is not having the initial thought. The enemy or our own flesh may bring it to mind. What we do with these thoughts is what matters. What we choose to let our minds dwell on leads to our behaviors and habits. Our thoughts should be filled with the Knowledge of God as He enlightens our mind by His Word. As we let God's Word influence our thinking, we are able to choose behavior that pleases Him.

**TOUR SUMMARY:** The Lampstand of Knowledge...

Our tour has led us from The Brazen Altar (Faith) to The Laver (Moral Excellence) to The Lampstand (Knowledge). The type of knowledge that is given by The Lampstand is not human knowledge but the supernatural mind of God.

"Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, **You know it all**. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it**. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your Presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, **"Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.**"  
(Psalm 139:4-12, NASB95)

**"I have come as Light into the world**, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness." (John 12:46, NASB95)

"For God, who said, **"Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**"  
(2 Corinthians 4:6, NASB95)

Jesus gives us the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God. The Holy Place in the New Tabernacle represents our soul (our mind, will and emotions). The Lampstand (Knowledge) gives light to our minds so that we might know Jesus and the power of His resurrection.

"This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, **that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all**. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but **if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5-7, NASB95)

*Good to have the lights on when you are on a Tour. Our minds and thoughts are to be set on Jesus and where He is seated in the heavenlies. Our thoughts can be focused on Him as the Light of His knowledge fills our minds. The word 'enlightened' means that the lights are really on and the light is illuminating the darkness of our minds. The Light we have in the Tabernacle is really the Lord Jesus Himself. He is our High Priest, our Faith, our Virtue and our Knowledge.*

*We will be turning around from the Lampstand to look at a Table. Even with the lights on, it is important to watch your step. The devil doesn't care that you are in The Tabernacle. He has come to steal our love, kill our joy and destroy our relationship with God. Satan hates the Light and loves to keep people in the dark.*

*When we walk in sin, we prefer the darkness to cover our deeds. Our choices need to be controlled by something greater than our own thinking and experience. The next piece of Furniture gives us insight into Who should be controlling our lives...*

**19. TOUR STOP FOUR:**

**Self Control  
at  
The Table of Showbread**





## TOUR STOP 4: Self-Control and The Table of Showbread

"You shall make a **table of acacia wood, two cubits long and one cubit wide and one and a half cubits high.** **"You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a gold border around it.** "You shall make for it a rim of a handbreadth around it; and you shall make a gold border for the rim around it. "You shall make four gold rings for it and put rings on the four corners which are on its four feet. "The rings shall be close to the rim as holders for the poles to carry the table. "You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, so that with them the table may be carried. "You shall make its dishes and its pans and its jars and its bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold. "You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times." (Exodus 25:23-30, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Table of Showbread is on the right side (North) as we enter the Holy Place and The Lampstand is on the left side (South). The Table of Showbread is also called the Table of His Presence or Face.

*Our High Priest is the "face" of God. When we see Jesus we see God.*

The Table of Showbread was made out of wood and covered with gold. Everything in the Tabernacle is made of or covered with gold. The Table was made of wood (representing the Cross) and covered with gold (God's love and perfection). Gold represents the perfect love of God and God's love was expressed on the Cross for us.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Fresh baked bread was put on the Table of Showbread weekly.

*Just a note: Eating home-made bread right out of the oven is such a great treat. God's Word is compared to bread (The Bread of Life). God invites us to meet Him and 'eat' hot bread with Him. He desires us to read, hear and meditate on His Word daily.*

""This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, **but you shall meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." (Joshua 1:8, NASB95)

""You shall set the **bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times.**" (Exodus 25:30, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The bread of God's Presence was placed on The Table. The 12 cakes or loaves of bread were made of fine flour and placed in two rows of 6 on the table. There were 12 loaves just as there were 12 Tribes in Israel. God was showing that there was enough bread for all of Israel.

Although the priests were the only people allowed to eat the bread, God's Word, the Bread of Life, is available for all to read and enjoy.

Besides the bread, there were other utensils and bowls on the Table. These utensils were used for various drink offerings. The Table of Showbread represents a place to worship God. Recognizing and acknowledging God's worth is the basis of praise. Praise is the act of offering ourselves to God and allowing Him to get the credit for our lives. All that we have and all that we are is given to us by God. He is worthy of all the praise we will offer Him.

"Then you shall take fine flour and **bake twelve cakes** with it; two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. "You shall set them in two rows, six to a row, on the pure gold table before the Lord. "You shall put pure frankincense on each row that it may be a memorial portion for the bread, **even an offering by fire to the Lord.**" (Leviticus 24:5-7, NASB95)

"He made the utensils which were on the table, its dishes and its pans and its bowls and its jars, with which **to pour out drink offerings, of pure gold.**" (Exodus 37:16, NASB95)

### Bread From Heaven

God demonstrated His Presence to the people of Israel in the wilderness by providing bread from heaven. Just as there was enough bread for each of the Tribes of Israel, God has provided His 'bread' (Word) for us. The food from heaven that God provided was called 'manna' and was delivered daily.

*God had the first home food delivery system. In the Lord's teaching on prayer, "give us this day our daily bread" refers to the manna that was delivered daily to the people of Israel while they traveled in the wilderness.*

"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave **them bread out of heaven to eat.**'" (John 6:31, NASB95)

Manna, or bread, came out of heaven and fed the people of Israel in the wilderness every day for forty years.

"The sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan." (Exodus 16:35, NASB95)

Jesus is the Bread that came down from heaven to feed us. Jesus compares Himself to the manna that was given to the Israelites.

"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.' " Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.**" But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the



Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.'" (John 6:31-40, NASB95)

## The Lord's Table

**TOUR GUIDE:** An application for The New Tabernacle's Table of Showbread is to remember the broken Body and shed blood of Jesus at the Lord's Table. He is the Bread that came from heaven and was broken for us. He said that if we eat of His Body we will never hunger again.

" For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, **"This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."** In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come."  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-34, NASB95)

The bread and the wine of the Lord's Table are symbolic of the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Bread is the Body of Christ and the Drink Offering is the Blood of Christ. When the Lord's Table is taken the bread does not actually become the Body of Christ and the wine does not actually become the Blood of Christ. These elements are symbolic of Jesus' death on the Cross.

The Lord's Table is taking the opportunity to remember what the Lamb of God did at The Brazen Altar. By faith we are remembering the work accomplished on the Cross. Jesus died on the Cross for our sin; was dead and buried; and then rose from the dead. We remember His death and resurrection when we take the Lord's Table and we remind ourselves that we are crucified, dead and buried in Him.

**TOUR GUIDE:** In the Lord's teaching on prayer in Matthew 5, we pray for our daily bread. Man does not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds out the mouth of God. **One of the most difficult challenges a believer faces is to spend time with God daily in His Word.** Trying to find time in our busy schedules to read and pray is one of the biggest challenges a believer faces. Reading the Bible and praying get crowded out by other less important things. We are naturally stubborn and lazy, neglecting that which should be given as our first priority.

"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."** So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:31-34, NASB95)

## Self Control

The New Tabernacle requires self-control to put a priority on eating the Bread of God's Word every day. Please review the **SIDE TOUR 3: Soul Nourishment First** to give some help from George Muller on this very important discipline. Our souls require the refreshment of the Word of God in order to influence the choices we make in our lives. Our wills need to come into conformity with the will of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. The only way to do this is to know and obey the Word of God.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Apostle Paul admonishes the Corinthians for not showing self-control when they gathered for the Lord's Table. Some were eating and drinking while others had none.

"But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you."  
(1 Corinthians 11:17-22, NASB95)

Self control builds the unity of the Body of Christ. As we put others as more important than ourselves, God is honored by our humble submission to one another. It is much easier to look out for ourselves and not see the needs of others.

"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**" (Philippians 2:1-4, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** When we walk in the Light of The Lampstand and eat and drink at The Table of Showbread, our mind, will and emotions are transformed. The enemy of our soul wants to steal our love for God, kill our joy in the Lord and destroy our relationships with God and man. We are not ignorant of the enemy's devices but we must keep the ground of our souls dedicated to the Lord. The battle for our souls requires Knowledge from God (The Lampstand) and Self-Control (The Table of Showbread) to wage war against Satan's schemes to dominate us.

## Temptation

Satan tempted Adam and Eve at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan wants us to experience and be controlled by evil. A major defense against Satan's schemes is delighting in the knowledge of God and choosing God's will and not our own. Jesus demonstrated self-control when He was tempted in the wilderness. The same temptations Satan used on Adam and Eve were plied against Jesus. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life are Satan's weapons.

"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:15-17, NASB95)

Adam and Eve were shown the fruit of the tree (lust of the eyes) by Satan and were told that the fruit was good to eat (lust of the flesh). They were promised that they would become "like" God (boastful pride of life). We may know the story, they (and we) fell for Satan's lies. Likewise, Jesus was tempted by the same methods as were used against Adam and Eve. He was tempted by being asked to turn a stone into bread when He hungered (lust of the flesh). He was offered the kingdoms of this world (lust of the eyes) if He would bow down and worship Satan. He was encouraged to tempt God by jumping off the peak of the Temple (boastful pride of life) instead of submitting to His Father. Where Adam and Eve failed in temptation, Jesus succeeded against it. Where we have failed and sinned, God wants us to follow Jesus' example and conquer these same schemes of the devil.

"so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for **we are not ignorant of his schemes.**" (2 Corinthians 2:11, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** At The Table of Showbread or His Face, we are to choose to die to self and live to God. Paul, the Apostle, said that he died daily as he reckoned himself dead to sin and alive to God. Our death to self is one of the keys of the Kingdom of life in God. The Word of God exhorts us to die daily to self and live to God.

"**"I have been crucified with Christ;** and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20, NASB95)

The High Priest invites you to put your name into this verse and make it your own:

**(Your name)** has been crucified with Christ; and is no longer **(your name)** who lives, but Christ lives in **(your name)**; and the life **(your name)** now lives in the flesh **(your name)** lives by faith in the Son of God, who loved **(your name)** and gave Himself up for **(your name)**.

The crucified life is one of the most important concepts in the Christian life. Understanding and applying this truth frees the believer to live for God. Our way and will is consistently brought into subjection to God's will. Real freedom from sin and self is found in dying. In this, death is real victory. Victory over self, sin and the devil is complete in living the crucified life in Christ.

The value of making this verse and other verses personal is that the Word begins to shape and control our thinking and behavior with God's mind and will. Self control through consuming Bread from heaven allows us to live for and in Jesus Christ.

## TOUR SUMMARY: Self Control and The Table of Showbread

Our soul (mind, will and emotions) has been saved by the Savior of our souls, Jesus Christ. We have a new mind in Christ, but we still have the ability and struggle to choose to follow God or the devil. Our will must conform to His will for us to live in Christ. Every choice we make has consequences. The principle of sowing and reaping is true in our spiritual lives. If we sow to the flesh we reap corruption. If we sow to the Spirit we reap life and peace. God does not force us to choose Him. As we freely choose His way, we gain the benefit of pleasing Him and enjoying His Kingdom of righteousness, real peace and unspeakable joy.

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For **the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.**" (Galatians 6:7-8, NASB95)

"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17, NASB95)

The Table of Showbread represents choices. We have the choice to have our way or God's way. Like a little disobedient puppy, we must take our "soul" by the scruff of the neck and turn it over to God. We want our own way and 'self' is never satisfied. When we listen to God, trust in His will and obey His commands, we learn and grow in how to say 'no' to our will and 'yes' to God's.

*I hope you ate some of the hot bread on the Table of Showbread. He told us we could have all we wanted. God does not limit the amount of His Word we consume. We never get filled yet we will be satisfied by His Word.*

*The Outer Court's Furniture influences the activities of our inner life. Faith (at The Brazen Altar) and Virtue (Moral Excellence at The Laver) are foundational to the Knowledge in the Light (at The Lampstand) and Self-Control (at The Table of Showbread) here in the Holy Place. Every place we turn and every step we take demonstrates our High Priest's life and character. We see His reflection in all the gold of the Holy Place as the Light bounces off the gold covered walls. His love and perfection surrounds us.*

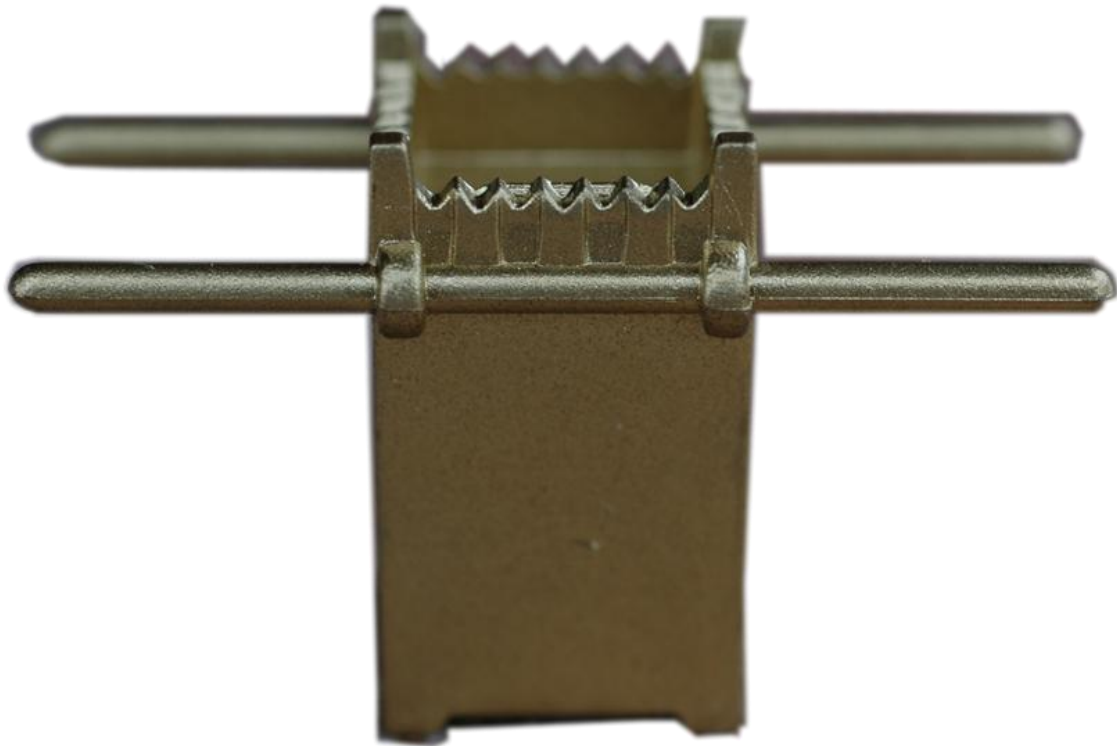
*Do you smell that sweet aroma? That aroma is coming from the next piece of Furniture. The High Priest has given the fragrance to us as a reminder of Him.*

*"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the **sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;" (2 Corinthians 2:14-15, NASB95)*

*As you turn to your left (West) from the Table of Showbread, that gold box before the Veil is The Altar of Incense. The perfume that is filling the room is coming from that Altar.*

**20. TOUR STOP FIVE:**

**Perseverance  
at  
The Altar of Incense**





## TOUR STOP 5: Perseverance at the Altar of Incense

"Moreover, you shall make an **altar as a place for burning incense**; you shall make it of acacia wood. "Its length shall be a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height shall be two cubits; its horns shall be of one piece with it. "You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it. "You shall make two gold rings for it under its molding; you shall make them on its two side walls—on opposite sides—and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it. "You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. "You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony, where I will meet with you. "Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. "When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. "You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it." (Exodus 30:1-9, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Fragrant incense was offered and burned on The Altar of Incense. The height of this Altar was ½ cubits higher than any other piece of furniture in the Holy Place. The Altar of Incense was overlaid with pure gold. The priests were instructed to burn incense every morning and every evening after The Lampstand was trimmed. The burning incense filled The Tabernacle as a fragrant aroma. The incense was to be a perpetual offering throughout all generations.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The incense rose to the God and represents praying to God. As incense rises to God, our prayers rise to Him. Our prayers fill The Most Holy Place and are a sweet aroma unto God as they are offered and rise to Him.

"Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the **prayers of the saints**, went up before God out of the angel's hand." (Revelation 8:3-4, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE: *Point of Interest***

*The location of The Altar of Incense seems to have a contradiction between The Old Tabernacle and The New Tabernacle. The Altar of Incense in The Old Tabernacle was before the Veil in The Holy Place.*

*"You shall put this altar in **front of the veil** that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony, where I will meet with you." (Exodus 30:6, NASB95)*

*In the New Testament The Altar of Incense was located right before The Ark of the Covenant in The New Tabernacle's Most Holy Place:*

*"Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, having **a golden altar of incense** and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;" (Hebrews 9:3-4, NASB95)*

*The location of The Altar of Incense in the New Tabernacle indicates that our prayers have moved into the Most Holy Place in the Presence of God. Jesus has made a way for our prayers to be moved from the Holy Place to the The Most Holy Place. We now have assurance that our prayers are in the Presence of God and heard by our Father in heaven.*

**TOUR GUIDE:** The nation of Israel left the worship of God and went after little "g" gods. They burned incense as a means of entreating these gods. Many different idols were set up to worship these gods. Idolatry is worshipping and praying to other gods.

*"I will make an end of Moab," declares the Lord, "the one who offers sacrifice on the high place and the one **who burns incense to his gods.**" (Jeremiah 48:35, NASB95)*

As followers of Christ, we are exhorted to pray without ceasing to the only true Creator God. We pray to the living God who answers our prayer. God's house was to be a house of prayer. We as the new house of the Lord (New Tabernacle) should be in continual communication with God and be His "house of prayer".

*"(Jesus) saying to them, "It is written, 'And My house shall be a **house of prayer,**' but you have made it a robbers' den."" (Luke 19:46, NASB95)*

**TOUR GUIDE:** Fire was needed to burn the incense. Fire was combined with incense and then was offered up to the Lord. In the same way, the fire of the Holy Spirit empowers our prayer. We are exhorted to devote ourselves to prayer and to pray without ceasing just as the fragrance from The Altar of Incense was continually offered to the Lord.

*"rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer,**" (Romans 12:12, NASB95)*

*"**...pray without ceasing;**" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NASB95)*

The Scripture exhorts us to pray with our mind and to pray with our spirit. We may understand what it means to pray with our minds but we are also encouraged to pray with our spirit. How do we pray with our spirit?

*"For if I **pray in a tongue, my spirit prays,** but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will **pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind** also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also." (1 Corinthians 14:14-15, NASB95)*

The manifestation of speaking in tongues has been a controversial issue in the Church. The extremes on this issue make a case for the cessation of tongues on one side and the other side misuses the manifestation. Paul said he prayed in tongues more than anyone in the Church at Corinth. God commands that speaking in tongues should not be forbidden. The Spirit of God has given this manifestation for the purpose of building a person up in the Lord. When tongues are

interpreted, the Body of Christ is built up. Tongues and interpretation are equivalent to prophecy. Every individual in the Body of Christ needs to be built up in the Lord.

"One who **speaks in a tongue edifies himself**; but one who prophesies edifies the church. Now **I wish that you all spoke in tongues**, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, **unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.**"

(1 Corinthians 14:4-5, NASB95)

Regularly speaking in tongues in private prayer is a tool that the Holy Spirit gives for intercession, supplication, thanksgiving, praise and exhortation. When tongues are spoken publicly and are interpreted, the assembled Church is built up. The manifestations of the Spirit are tools to build up the lives of believers and the Church in Christ. (For further teaching on this subject please see The Gift of the Holy Spirit by J.E. Stiles.)

We are to persevere in prayer. By being alert in all perseverance we will be able to discern the Lord's mind and will. God desires us to be in continual relationship with Him. He wants us to be talking to Him 'face to face'. The Altar of Incense represents perseverance in prayer. We are encouraged and exhorted to pray with our mind and to pray with our spirit as an offering to God.

"With all prayer and petition **pray at all times** in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:18, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, makes intercession in prayer for us continually. Remember, every piece of Furniture in the Tabernacle represents the person and work of Jesus. The Altar of Incense represents the continual intercession Jesus makes for us before the Father.

"The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.** For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever."

(Hebrews 7:23-28, NASB95)

Jesus' prayer, the Lord's Prayer, is in John 17. John 17 is the prayer Jesus prays to the Father for our benefit. Jesus' prays that we will be kept in His Name; we should be one with Jesus as He is with the Father; we should be kept from the evil one; that we should be sanctified in God's Word, His truth; that we should be given His glory; and that God's love (the same love that the Father has for the Son) should fill us. May Jesus' prayer for us be answered in and through us:

"Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that **to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.** "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before



the world was. **"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me,** and they have kept Your word. "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and **they believed that You sent Me.** "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.** "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. **"But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.** "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, **but to keep them from the evil one.** "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.** "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, **but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us,** so that the world may believe that You sent Me. "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected in unity,** so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. **"Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am,** so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, **so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**" (John 17, NASB95)

The Lord's Prayer is very powerful. He prays that He would be in us and we would be in Him just as He and the Father are One. He has given us His Word, His love and His prayer for us to be united with Him and with each other.

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Lord's teaching on prayer is in Matthew 5. We usually call this the Lord's Prayer and quote it verbatim as a prayer.

**"Pray, then, in this way:**

'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'" (Matthew 6:9-13, NASB95)

The Lord's teaching on prayer is actually an outline or template for praying. Each line in this prayer can be used as a topic to stimulate and guide our prayer life. We know if we pray according to His will He hears us and we will have the things we ask of Him. A great way to know that God will hear a prayer is to pray God's Word back to Him. God hears prayer that is according to His will and God's Word is His will.

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which **we have asked from Him.**" (1 John 5:14-15, NASB95)

The following is a suggested outline and prayer application from the Lord's teaching on prayer:

**1.) Our Father who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name: (THE MERCY SEAT)**

*I hallow and praise your Name, oh my God.*  
**Jehovah-Tsidkinu** You are my Righteousness  
**Jehovah-Makkedish** You are my Holiness  
**Jehovah-Shalom** You are my Peace and wholeness  
**Jehovah-Shamma** You are Present with me  
**Jehovah-Jireh** You are my Provider  
**Jehovah-Rophe** You are my Healer  
**Jehovah-Nissi** You are the Banner over me in the battle against the enemy  
**Jehovah-Rohi** You are my Good Shepherd. Shepherd me in Your pastures.

(Remember and praise the Name and work of Christ; Jesus is the Way, Truth, Life, Light, Savior, Lord of lords, King of kings, Door, Alpha, Omega, Bright and Morning Star etc.)

**2.) Your Kingdom come: (THE ARK OF THE COVENANT)**

*Come Your Kingdom. I pray that the righteousness, peace and joy of the Holy Spirit will be manifest in and through me this day for Your glory. Show me any area in my life that is not reflecting Your righteousness. I know if I confess my sin You are faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from any unrighteousness. I carefully present to you all my cares and concerns in all things so that You will keep my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. In Your Presence is the fullness of joy. Your joy is my strength.*

"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy** in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17, NASB95)

**3.) Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: (THE ALTAR OF INCENSE)**

*I present my body to You as a living sacrifice. I choose not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of my mind so that I can know and live Your good and acceptable and perfect will.*

" Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2, NASB95)

"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and**

**increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might**, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:9-14, NASB95)

#### **4.) Give us this day our daily bread: (THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD)**

*I pray that You will give me my spiritual and physical bread for life. You are the Bread of Life. As I eat of You, I partake in Your Kingdom and life. May Your Word sustain me knowing that I do not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from Your mouth. I meditate on Your Word so that I can be careful to do all that You command in order for my way to be prosperous and to have good success. You are my Provider. Thank You for all Your generous provisions for my spirit, soul and body.*

""This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but **you shall meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." (Joshua 1:8, NASB95)

#### **5.) Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors: (THE LAMPSTAND)**

*Father there is a direct relationship between how I forgive others and how You forgive me. May I keep a short account and quickly forgive those that offend me. May I know how to turn the other cheek; may I forgive 7 times 70; may I not be easily offended and know how to pray for those that hurt me. May I remember that Jesus forgave His persecutors from the Cross after they tortured Him. May I follow in His example in Your strength. I am weak and cannot do it without You.*

*In Your light may I see the dark areas of my life that need to be confessed surrendered to You.*

""For **if you forgive others** for their transgressions, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you**. "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." (Matthew 6:14-15, NASB95)

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**" (1 John 1:6-7, NASB95)

#### **6.) Lead me not into temptation (THE LAVER)**

*Lord I know I am drawn away from You when I allow the lust of my eyes or the lust of my flesh or my boastful pride to control me. May I quickly respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit when I am tempted. He gives me a way out. May I take it immediately so that I will not disobey You in any way.*

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with

the temptation will **provide the way of escape** also, so that you will be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13, NASB95)

*Jesus you were tempted in every way that I am tempted but You are without sin. You can identify with me and help me resist temptation.*

"For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to **come to the aid of those who are tempted.**" (Hebrews 2:18-19, NASB95)

## **7.) But deliver me from evil (THE BRAZEN ALTAR)**

*I put on the full armor of God. May I keep Your Truth central in my life like a belt. Let my heart and every breath be protected by Your breastplate of righteousness in Christ. Protect my mind and thought life by the helmet of salvation as I think about how Jesus' body was broken for me and His blood shed for the forgiveness of my sins. I walk in the peace that I have found in the good news of the Cross and I will be willing to share it with those that don't know You. May I rightly divide Your Word as I apply it in my life and use it against the evil one and his unrighteous kingdom. May I protect myself in the shadow of the shield of faith in Jesus Christ. Help me to persevere in prayer as I keep in contact with the Commander of my soul.*

For Yours is the Kingdom (in the Outer Court of my body), Power (in the Holy Place of my soul) and Glory (in the Most Holy Place of my spirit) for ever and ever, Amen.

*Come Lord Jesus. May Your Kingdom and Power and Glory be manifested through my life today. I do not stand in my strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit. Glorify Your Name in and through me for Your sake. Amen*

**TOUR GUIDE:** As we persevere in prayer at the Altar of Incense, the Holy Spirit will lead our praying. The Scripture gives us several powerful prayers that we can personalize as we pray. Praying God's Word is a delight to God and powerful intercession for our lives and others. A few examples of these prayers changed to be made personal (**bold**) are:

"I pray that the eyes of **my** heart may be enlightened, so that **I** will know what is the hope of **Your** calling, what are the riches of the glory of **Your** inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of **Your** power toward **me** who believes. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of **Your** might which **You** brought about in Christ, when **You** raised Him from the dead and seated Him at **Your** right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And **You** put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:18-23, NASB95)

"For this reason I bow my knees before **you** Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that **You** would grant **me**, according to the riches of **Your** glory, to be strengthened with power through **Your** Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in **my** heart through faith; and that **I**, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that **I** may be filled up to all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19, NASB95)

"For this reason also, since the day we **I** heard of it, **I** have not ceased to pray and to ask that **I** may be filled with the knowledge of **Your** will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you **I** will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please **You** in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to **Your** glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to you Father, who has qualified **me** to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For **You** rescued **me** from the domain of darkness, and transferred us **me** to the kingdom of **Your** beloved Son, in whom **I** have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:9-14, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The relationship between incense offered to God and the prayers of the saints is clearly described in the Scriptures. May we persevere in offering our prayers to our God.

"May my prayer **be counted as incense before You**; The lifting up of my hands as the **evening offering**." (Psalm 141:2, NASB95)

"When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and **golden bowls full of incense**, which are the **prayers of the saints**." (Revelation 5:8, NASB95)

When should prayer be offered? In The Tabernacle the incense was to be burned day and night. Prayer is to be offered to God without ceasing. Prayer is constant communication with God. Prayer is talking with God. Some people may pray eloquent prayers while others feel their prayers are too simple. God looks at the heart of the one praying and not how the words are uttered. Prayer should not be relegated to some formal way or time of prayer. Understanding that God desires us to talk to Him all the time changes the way we view prayer. We may spend hours praying or offer up a quick thanks for some event in our day. Talking to God should become like breathing...regular, deep and consistent.

""Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it **every morning** when he trims the lamps. "When Aaron **trims the lamps at twilight**, he shall burn incense. There shall be **perpetual incense** before the Lord throughout your generations." (Exodus 30:7-8, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The soul is made up of our mind, will and emotions. The Lampstand gives light to our minds. The Table of Showbread helps us in seeking God's will instead of our own way. The Altar of Incense gives us release for our thoughts and feelings. We can take all our cares and concerns to God in prayer. We have a tendency to worry and fret over every area of our lives. God invites us to cast all our care on Him in prayer because He cares for us.

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you**." (1 Peter 5:6-7, NASB95)

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**." (Philippians 4:4-7, NASB95)

## **TOUR SUMMARY: Perseverance in Prayer at The Altar of Incense**

As we persevere in prayer with our mind (Holy Place of our own Tabernacle) and we pray in the Spirit (Most Holy Place of our own Tabernacle) our confession, supplication, intercession, thanksgiving and heart to heart communication is heard and received by the One who listens and answers prayer.

**"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit,** and with this in view, be on the alert **with all perseverance** and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel," (Ephesians 6:18-19, NASB95)

*Persevering in prayer is like the fragrance of incense continually offered in The Tabernacle on The Altar of Incense. Our High Priest prays for us. We may talk to Him at any time and our relationship grows through this communication. He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. May we offer prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, praise, supplication and confession led by the Holy Spirit.*

*In The Old Tabernacle we walk through a very thick veil to get into The Most Holy Place where there are two more pieces of Furniture. Although the Veil has been removed in The New Tabernacle, we must remember that the Veil represents something very important...*

## The Veil: The Body of The High Priest

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Old Tabernacle had a Veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. As discussed earlier the Veil was torn from top to bottom in the Temple when Jesus died on the Cross. The opening and way for man to come to God was initiated by God. Man's attempt to get to God results in religion. There are many religions in the world. God desires a relationship with mankind not religion. He made the way for this relationship through Jesus Christ. Religion is replaced by a relationship with the living God.

"Therefore, brethren, **since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh**, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:19-22, NASB95)

"But **God demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NASB95)

"The veil was made using many layers of cloth. The thickness was over three feet. The curtains overlapped and made a small maze through which the priest walked..." [Zion Messianic Jewish Fellowship Congregation (Austin, Texas), <http://tzion.org/articles/Temple1.html>]

In the Temple at the time of Christ, the Veil was torn from top to the bottom when Jesus died on the Cross opening the way into the Most Holy Place.

"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the **veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many." (Matthew 27:50-53, NASB95)

The Veil was a thick maze of materials that the high priest would pass through to get to The Most Holy Place from the Holy Place. The way into the Most Holy Place was through the Veil. In the New Tabernacle the way into the Most Holy Place (the Spirit) from the Holy Place (the Soul) is through Jesus Christ. The Veil of His Body was torn in order for us to come into His Most Holy Presence.

*The Veil has been removed in The New Tabernacle. The Old Tabernacle had this thick Veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Our High Priest allows us to pass confidently through the Veil with Him into The Most Holy Place. His Body was torn to make the way open. Jesus truly is the Way into God's Presence!*

**21. TOUR STOP SIX:**

**Godliness  
at  
The Ark of the Covenant**







## TOUR STOP 6: Godliness in the Ark of the Covenant

" "They shall construct an **ark of acacia wood** two and a half cubits long, and one and a half cubits wide, and one and a half cubits high. "You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and you shall make a gold molding around it. "You shall cast four gold rings for it and fasten them on its four feet, and two rings shall be on one side of it and two rings on the other side of it. "You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark with them. "The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it. "You shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give you." (Exodus 25:10-16, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Ark of the Covenant measured about two feet by four feet and was made of acacia wood covered inside and out with pure gold. The Ark contained three items: a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's rod and the Ten Commandments written on tablets of stone.

"having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a **golden jar holding the manna**, and **Aaron's rod** which budded, and the **tables of the covenant**;" (Hebrews 9:4, NASB95)

The Ark of the Covenant is in the Most Holy Place. God met Moses in the Most Holy Place at the Ark of the Covenant. God in His holiness, righteousness and truth met with a humble man.

" "You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony, **where I will meet with you.**" (Exodus 30:6, NASB95)

"Where I will meet with you" is a very powerful statement. God promised to meet with man at The Ark of the Covenant (or Testimony). God and man met and dwelt together in the heart of The Old Tabernacle.

**TOUR GUIDE:** God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. When we humble ourselves before God and come to Him on His terms by faith (Brazen Altar), moral excellence (Laver), knowledge (Lampstand), self-control (Table of Showbread), perseverance (Altar of Incense), He adds to our lives godliness. Godliness is "God-likeness. The Presence of God changes us into His likeness...God-likeness.

"By common confession, **great is the mystery of godliness**: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory." (1 Timothy 3:16, NASB95)

"Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in **holy conduct and godliness**," (2 Peter 3:11, NASB95)

"But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, **discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness**; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but **godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.**" (1 Timothy 4:7-8, NASB95)

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the **doctrine conforming to godliness**, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But **godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either." (1 Timothy 6:3-7, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Moses was changed when He was in the Presence of God. Even Moses' face started to radiate the glory of God when he was with Him. It is impossible to stand before God in the filthy rags of our own goodness or righteousness. We are nothing before Him. The glory of God is too much for us. God is a consuming fire and will not have anything unholy in His Presence. Our right standing before God has been given to us by the High Priest who is our righteousness, holiness and godliness. When we stand in the Presence of God's purity and holiness, our hearts begin to change.

"But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, **much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.** For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory. Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away." (2 Corinthians 3:7-13, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Law written on the Tablets of Stone condemns us because of our sin and we fall short of His glory.

"for all have sinned and **fall short of the glory of God,**" (Romans 3:23, NASB95)

God's Law represents His holiness, character and standards for living. Mankind has not been able to keep even the 10 commands given to Moses much less the entire Law. The Law instructed a person on how to live and how to worship. There were ceremonial Laws, dietary Laws, moral Laws and others. There were offerings, sacrifices and feasts that were to be maintained. The Law was specific on who could approach God, when they could approach God and how to approach God. The Law had to be strictly followed to avoid dire consequences. Failure in one area of keeping the Law caused a person to be guilty of the whole Law.

"For whoever **keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point**, he has become guilty of all." (James 2:10, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia wood and covered inside and out with gold. Wood represents the Cross and gold represents God's love and perfection. The Cross is wrapped in pure gold, the pure love of God for us. Although we fall short of the Law, Jesus was able to fulfill the Law for us. He took the punishment for our failure on the Cross.

God's love and not the nails of the crucifixion held Jesus on the Cross. Jesus is the embodiment of God's love. As the Ark was overlaid with gold on the inside and out, we are to be filled with God's love on the inside and express it to God and man on the outside of our Godly lives. God is love and Jesus is our example of how to love. Godliness is the expression of God in love.

The Ark contained three items:

- 1) A golden jar containing manna
- 2) Aaron's rod
- 3) Tablets Moses received on Mt Sinai.

### 1) Golden Jar with Manna

The golden jar placed in the Ark of the Covenant had some manna in it. Normally, manna lasted only for one day. If a person collected more manna than needed, it would rot. The only time extra manna could be collected was for the Sabbath. No one would work on the Sabbath so an additional day's worth of manna could be collected the day before to have enough to eat on the Sabbath. The golden jar containing manna was to be kept as a continual reminder of how God fed His people in the wilderness.

"Then Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded, 'Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread that I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' " Moses said to Aaron, "**Take a jar and put an omerful of manna in it**, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations.'" (Exodus 16:32-33, NASB95)

When Jesus was in the wilderness, He was tempted to turn a stone in to bread. Jesus resisted Satan and told him that man does not live by bread alone but by the Word of God. The golden jar containing manna is an expression of God's Word contained in His love. The golden jar (love) with manna (God's Word, His truth) allows us to see that godliness expresses the truth by God's love. People can be slashed by the words of our mouths in cruel ways. The truth may hurt but the truth spoken with wrong intentions or with hatred in our hearts can destroy others.

"but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ," (Ephesians 4:15, NASB95)

### 2) Aaron's Rod

The second item in the Ark was Aaron's rod. Aaron's rod was used by Moses to bring judgment upon Egypt and to lead God's people in the wilderness.

" Then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. "You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do. "Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be

as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him. **"You shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."** (Exodus 4:14-17, NASB95)

Moses and Aaron were chosen by God to lead the people in the wilderness. A rebellion arose on who should be the leaders of the people of Israel. God intervened to put an end to the grumbling in a rather unique way:

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel, and get from them a rod for each father's household: twelve rods, from all their leaders according to their fathers' households. You shall write each name on his rod, and write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi; for there is one rod for the head of each of their fathers' households. 'You shall then deposit them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony, where I meet with you. 'It will come about that the rod of the man whom I choose will sprout. Thus I will lessen from upon Myself the grumblings of the sons of Israel, who are grumbling against you.' Moses therefore spoke to the sons of Israel, and all their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' households, twelve rods, with the rod of Aaron among their rods. So Moses deposited the rods before the Lord in the tent of the testimony. Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds. Moses then brought out all the rods from the presence of the Lord to all the sons of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod. But the Lord said to Moses, 'Put back the rod of Aaron before the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put an end to their grumblings against Me, so that they will not die.'" (Numbers 17:1-10, NASB95)

A rod or staff had two purposes. One use of the rod was a source of comfort by leading and guiding the sheep.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**" (Psalm 23:4, NASB95)

The second purpose of the rod was for a weapon for combat. A shepherd used the rod to protect the sheep from danger and attack.

Aaron's Rod or staff represents the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. God's Word (the rod) is the authority for our lives and living. The Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit, has two purposes as well. One is to instruct and guide us.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;" (2 Timothy 3:16, NASB95)

The second purpose of the Word as a sword is for our warfare or combat against the enemy of our souls.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**" (Ephesians 6:17, NASB95)

God's Word as a two edged sword has one edge for healing and the other edge for war.

"For the **word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge

the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." (Hebrews 4:12-14, NASB95)

God's desire is for us to know His Word so that we may use it against the forces of darkness.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**" (Ephesians 6:12-17, NASB95)

### 3) The Tablets of Stone

The Tablets of Stone were the third item placed in the Ark and represented the Law of God. The Law is limited and is not able to save us or make us Godly. The Law brings condemnation. We may keep some of the Law but we fall short in keeping all of it. By failing in one area we are guilty of the whole Law. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and is able to forgive us based on His sacrifice on the Cross. The Book of Galatians speaks to the issue of how the Law cannot save.

"For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." Now **that no one is justified by the Law before God** is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith." However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "He who practices them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:10-14, NASB95)

No one can be justified before God by the Law. The Law condemns and does not justify a person before God. Although the Law describes what God required for Godly living, godliness cannot be obtained by keeping the Old Testament Law or any other religious laws. The Law actually brings a curse because it is impossible to keep it in our own strength.

"For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them."" (Galatians 3:10, NASB95)

Why would God want the Tablets of the Law put in the Ark? Possibly, God knew that the Law would be the tutor to bring us to the One who could fulfill the Law for us. The Tablets serve as a reminder or testimony of the Law's purpose to bring us to faith in Christ.

""Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.** "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished." (Matthew 5:17-18, NASB95)

"Therefore **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ**, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." (Galatians 3:24-25, NASB95)

In the New Tabernacle the Law of God is written not on tablets of stone, but on the tablets of our hearts.

"You are our letter, **written in our hearts**, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but **on tablets of human hearts**." (2 Corinthians 3:2-3, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Jesus Christ is our righteousness before God. Our justification before God is not by the works we do but by what Jesus did on the Cross for us. The road to godliness is paved by the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The righteousness of Christ is given to us when we place our faith in Him.

"But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his **faith is credited as righteousness**," (Romans 4:5, NASB95)

When a person is born again according to Jesus' description in the Book of John, that person is a new creation in God.

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God**.'" Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God**. 'That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'** 'The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'" Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 'Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. 'If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 'No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 'As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; **so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life**.'" (John 3:3-15, NASB95)

"Therefore if **anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2 Corinthians 5:17, NASB95)

Just as a person has the DNA of their parents when they are born physically, a born again person is infused with the spiritual DNA of God. DNA carries the genetic code of the parent and produces their likeness. We inherit the "godliness" gene from the DNA of our Father in Heaven when we are born again. God has called us to be like Him, grow up in Him and live in Him. God is at work in us to bring about His godliness or "God-likeness" in our lives.

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**" (Philippians 2:12-13, NASB95)

Once we have come to Christ and have been born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, we begin the journey of becoming like Jesus. He is our future and pattern for life. The life of God is placed into us when we are born again. As we cooperate with Him, His life begins to grow in and through us. Our inner man starts to conform to the image of Christ. We begin to start "looking like" our Father in Heaven.

#### **TOUR SUMMARY: Godliness in The Ark of the Covenant**

Godliness is great spiritual gain. We can only live like God when we allow Him to have full control of our lives. As we die to self and live for God, He is able to live His life through us. He lives His "godliness" through us. We don't live by the Law but by the Spirit living in us through faith. As He lives in us, God will produce His 'godliness' in us.

God's Word is the standard for righteousness and godliness. Our lives fall short of the perfect standards written in the Law. Our Tour Guide, Jesus Christ, did not fail in any aspect in regards to the Law. He actually fulfilled the Law in our place. We live because He died for the penalty of our failure.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20, NASB95)

We have been born again and are being made into His likeness or "God-likeness". When we see Jesus face to face we will be like Him. He starts this work in us when we are born from above. Face to face with God starts in the here and now and furthers the His work in us.

"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is." (1 John 3:2, NASB95)

*Our Tour has led us to the place of The Ark of the Covenant. There are two pieces of Furniture in The Most Holy Place. The second piece of Furniture, The Mercy Seat, is actually located on top of the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant is the base or foundation for The Mercy Seat. We are to be rooted and grounded in God and His holiness.*

*Let's take a quick refresher and remind ourselves on how we got to this point. First, we obtained Faith at The Brazen Altar; Virtue at The Laver; Knowledge at The Lampstand; Self-Control at The Table of Showbread; Perseverance at The Altar of Incense; and now Godliness at The Ark of the Covenant.*

*The Tour does not stop here. Even with all these wonderful qualities, we are still not 'face to face' with God. There is one more piece of Furniture that will make all the difference in the world...*

**22. TOUR STOP SEVEN:**

**Brotherly Kindness  
at  
The Mercy Seat**







## TOUR STOP SEVEN: Brotherly Kindness at the Mercy Seat

""You shall make a **mercy seat of pure gold**, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. "You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. "Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. "The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat. "You shall put **the mercy seat on top of the ark**, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you." (Exodus 25:17-21, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** The Mercy Seat is on top of the Ark of the Covenant. The Mercy Seat was made of pure gold. There were two angel-like characters on top of The Mercy Seat called "cherubim" who are a high order of angelic being. The two cherubim were made of pure gold and were placed facing each other. Their large wings covered them on The Mercy Seat.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Why would the Mercy Seat be on top of the Ark of the Covenant? Even in the Old Tabernacle, God was showing us that His mercy triumphed over the Law. The Law was made and delivered by God and it is holy and good. The Law was an exacting expression of the holiness of God. But, remember, a person cannot be justified by keeping the Law. The Law is a tutor to bring us to our knees and cry for mercy.

"Therefore the Law has become our **tutor to lead us to Christ**, so that we may be justified by faith." (Galatians 3:24, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Only by God's mercy can forgiveness be granted and gained. God's greatest mercy for us was shown by Jesus in His dying on the Cross. As The Mercy Seat sits on top of The Ark of the Covenant, so God's mercy supersedes the Law. God's mercy triumphs over the Law.

"For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; **mercy triumphs over judgment.**" (James 2:13, NASB95)

The Mercy Seat was the place of atonement or reconciliation between God and His people. The Hebrew word "kapporeth" is used for The Mercy Seat.

**3727 כַּפֹּרֶת** [*kapporeth* /kap·po·reth/] n f. From 3722; TWOT 1023c; GK 4114; 27 occurrences; AV translates as "mercy seat" 26 times, and "mercy seatward" once. **1** mercy-seat, place of atonement. **1A** the golden plate of propitiation on which the High Priest sprinkled the seat 7 times on the Day of Atonement symbolically reconciling Jehovah and His chosen people. **1A1** the slab of gold on top of the ark of the covenant which measured 2.5

by 1.5 cubits; on it and part of it were the two golden cherubim facing each other whose outstretched wings came together above and constituted the throne of God.

Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996

Atonement reconciles God with His people. God has reconciled us to Himself through the mercy He demonstrated to us on the Cross. While we were yet sinners and strangers to His mercy, Jesus died for us. The Mercy Seat is the place where God reminds us that He expresses His love to us from the limitless well of His kindness. God's lovingkindness has brought us into His Presence.

""In **Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed**; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation." (Exodus 15:13, NASB95)

### **TOUR GUIDE: Love or love?**

The word used for brotherly kindness in 2 Peter 1 is the word "philadelphia". Jesus is our older brother and has shown us the greatest kindness. He is the first born from the dead. By His work on the Cross, Jesus made the way for us to be adopted as God's children. We are now blessed by being allowed to be the friends of God. Although Jesus meets us where we are, He desires for us to be in a deeper relationship with Him.

The Greek word 'phileo' is a word for a brotherly type of love. 'Phileo' means 'tender affection' or 'kindness to another'. Another Greek word translated for love is 'agape' which is a sacrificial type of love. 'Agape' is not dependent upon having love returned. Jesus demonstrated this type of love on the Cross. God loved us even while we were yet separated from Him.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NASB95)

God meets us where we are and transforms us as we are in His Presence. An example of God meeting us on our level is shown in an encounter between Jesus and Peter at the end of the Gospel of John after Jesus' resurrection from the dead:

" So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **love** You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **love** You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you **love** Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I **love** You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep." (John 21:15-17, NASB95)

The Greek word translated for "love" gives us insight into what was actually being said to Peter. "Agape" is the sacrificial love demonstrated by God for us on the Cross. No greater love is demonstrated than when a person lays down his life for another. "Phileo" is the type of give and take type of love friends show each other. We get the word 'Philadelphia' (City of Brotherly Love) from the Greek word 'phileo' and 'delphia' (brother). As we look at the Greek words that are translated for love ('agape' and 'phileo') in the previous passage we can see how God met Peter.

During the time Jesus was being interrogated by the Jewish Sanhedrin. Peter denied Jesus three times and ran away. At this point Peter was at an all time low point and went back to what he knew...fishing. After the resurrection of Jesus, He sends a breakfast invitation to the despondent Peter.

" So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love (**agape**) Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (**phileo**) You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (**agape**) Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (**phileo**) You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (**phileo**) Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love (**phileo**) Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (**phileo**) You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep." (John 21:15-17, NASB95)

Jesus wanted Peter to have an "agape" love for Him and asked Peter about what kind of love Peter had for Him. Peter was only capable of expressing a friendship love for Jesus. Jesus wanted to hear Peter say that he "agaped" Him, but Peter could only "phileo" Him at this point. The three times Jesus asks Peter if he loved him demonstrates Jesus meeting Peter on his level.

#### First Time

Jesus: Do you love (agape) Me

Peter: Yes I love (phileo) You

#### Second Time

Jesus: Do you love (agape) Me

Peter: Yes I love (phileo) You

#### Third Time

Jesus: Do you love (phileo) Me

Peter: Yes I love (phileo) You

God meets us in the state we are in and wants to lead us into a deeper relationship with Him. We may only be capable of giving 'phileo' love to God at any given time. God meets us in our 'phileo' and draws us towards His 'agape' love. We can come to God just as we are and He will meet us in that state. As He meets us we are wonderfully changed from the inside out. When Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as written in the Book of Acts, the love (agape) of God filled his heart. His heart was changed and was overflowed with the 'agape' love of God. Peter's state of loving God with brotherly love (phileo) was deepened into an 'agape' love for God.

### **TOUR SUMMARY: Lovingkindness at The Mercy Seat**

The Mercy Seat represents God's lovingkindness for us. Receiving God's lovingkindness surpasses anything we can experience in life. Real life is resting in the love of God.

"Because Your **lovingkindness is better than life**, My lips will praise You." (Psalm 63:3, NASB95)

The holiness, truth and righteousness of God meet His lovingkindness, mercy and peace at The Mercy Seat. Opposites attract at The Mercy Seat. We who are far away from God have been brought near by the blood of Jesus. We who were unholy have been drawn by the One who is holy.

"Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other." (Psalm 85:10, NASB95)

God's lovingkindness never ceases and is new every morning. As we draw upon God's reservoir of love and kindness, our hearts are brought into vital contact and relationship with the living God.

"The Lord's **lovingkindnesses indeed never cease**, For His compassions never fail. They are **new every morning**; Great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23, NASB95)

"Remember, O Lord, Your compassion and **Your lovingkindnesses**, For they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; **According to Your lovingkindness** remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord." (Psalm 25:6-7, NASB95)

We learn to be kind from the God who has been kind to us. Brotherly kindness is learned at the feet of the first born from the dead, Jesus Christ. As He is kind to us, we learn how to be kind to others. His lovingkindness is never ending. Our kindness in our own strength wears thin. Drawing from God's lovingkindness gives us a never ending well of kindness for others.

The Mercy Seat is on top of the Ark of the Covenant. The lovingkindness of God's mercy is on top of the standards of the Law. Mercy triumphs over the Law. Hebrews 4 says that we can come into the Presence of God with confidence by the precious blood of our High Priest, Jesus Christ, and find His mercy and grace.

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace to help** in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16, NASB95)

When we come into God's Presence, we obtain grace (not the condemnation of the Law) and mercy (God's unmerited favor) for the challenges we face in our lives. Grace is the power of God to do His will. Mercy is God's lovingkindness expressed to us. Perfect love casts out all fear as God lavishes His grace upon us in Christ. By His mercy we have been forgiven and by His grace we can do the things that please Him.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to **the riches of His grace which He lavished on us...**" (Ephesians 1:7-8, NASB95)

*God has expressed His mercy for us by sending His own Son to die on the Cross for us. Although God is holy, righteous and pure and we are filthy in sin, God has shown His mercy to us by providing a way to be in His Presence. Remember we are standing in The Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies.*

***Oh, look, it's time for an Intermission on our Tabernacle Tour...***

## 23. TOUR INTERMISSION

*We are going to take a quick Intermission on our Tour. We will watch the High Priest of our salvation perform three very important rituals. These vital acts are not just formalities but are essential in our pursuit of the Face of God.*

*Please stand aside as the High Priest performs these three very important deeds. The Sprinkling of the Blood (Act 1); The Washing of Water (Act 2); and, The Anointing with Oil (Act 3) are vital in the Tour of The Tabernacle. Without these three Acts being performed, the pieces of Furniture in the Tabernacle are merely interesting historical artifacts of an ancient religion.*

*Watch as the High Priest shows us what He and the Holy Spirit do in the Old and New Tabernacle to the Furniture and the 'priests' on the Tour.*

## ACTS of Sprinkling, Washing and Anointing

### ACT 1: Sprinkling of the Blood (JUSTIFICATION)

The Old Tabernacle was cleansed by blood. Although this may sound strange to our modern senses, every piece of The Furniture had blood sprinkled on it from the blood collected from the sacrificial animals at The Brazen Altar.

"Then the anointed priest is to take some **of the blood of the bull and bring it to the tent of meeting, and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil of the sanctuary.** 'The priest shall also put some of the **blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense** which is before the Lord in the tent of meeting; and all the **blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.**" (Leviticus 4:5-7, NASB95)

"Moses slaughtered it and took some of its **blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear, and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.** He also had Aaron's sons come near; and Moses put some of the blood on the lobe of their right ear, and on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot. **Moses then sprinkled the rest of the blood around on the altar.**" (Leviticus 8:23-24, NASB95)

"And in the same way he **sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.** And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:21-22, NASB95)

Our High Priest shed His own blood as the Lamb of God. His blood is sprinkled on all who turn from sin and put their faith in Him. Jesus' blood was shed just like the Old Testament sacrifice was killed and offered on The Brazen Altar. The blood was sprinkled on the Tabernacle and on each piece of Furniture and all the vessels used in worship. Blood from the sacrifice was applied to the priest's right earlobe, thumb and big toe.

The New Tabernacle's priests must also be sprinkled by Jesus' blood in order for us to walk into the Presence of God.

" Therefore, brethren, since we **have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus**, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:19-22, NASB95)

*Amazing! The High Priest gave Himself as the offering for sin. Since He was without sin, He was able to redeem all who were under sin. Please remember that there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Sin is costly and requires a penalty to be paid. In our case the Son of God willingly paid the price with His blood. Our sin cost Him His life. Every area of our "tabernacle" is covered with the blood of Jesus. As His priests, our hearing and minds (earlobes), our actions (thumbs) and our way of life (big toe) are sprinkled with His blood so we can walk in His holiness.*

## ACT 2: Washing with Water (SANCTIFICATION)

Water from The Laver was used to wash the priests before they entered the Old Tabernacle. The hands and feet of the priests were washed before entering to perform their daily duties. Although this was a ceremonial washing prescribed by God, hands and feet are what get the dirtiest. What we do (hands) and where we go (feet) need to be washed. The High Priest washes every priest that enters the Tabernacle. The priest would die if he was not washed.

""Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and **wash them with water.**" (Exodus 40:12, NASB95)

""Aaron and his sons shall **wash their hands and their feet from it**; when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall **wash with water, so that they will not die**; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire sacrifice to the Lord. "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."" (Exodus 30:19-21, NASB95)

A priest in God's Kingdom is required to be continually washed by the living water of the Holy Spirit. When we resist Him, we begin to cool off spiritually. Our spiritual cooling can lead to a blockage in our relationship with God. Sanctified living requires us to be washed regularly when we approach God. The "dirt" of our walk and actions must be washed by the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, we can regularly wash through confession, repentance and forgiveness.

""As for me, **I baptize you with water for repentance**, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11, NASB95)

"but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; **but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.**"" (John 4:14, NASB95)

"Such were some of you; but **you were washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:11, NASB95)

""Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and **wash away your sins**, calling on His name."" (Acts 22:16, NASB95)

""Then I will **sprinkle clean water on you**, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols." (Ezekiel 36:25, NASB95)

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by **the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**" (Titus 3:5, NASB95)

*Watch the High Priest. He is reminding us of His example on how to serve others. None of the disciples in the upper room celebrating the Passover with Jesus wanted to wash the feet of his brothers. Watching the hesitancy of the disciples, Jesus humbled Himself and took a towel and bowl and washed*

*their feet. Jesus gave us a vivid example on how to serve one another in love. Look as He washes Peter's feet:*

*" Then He poured **water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.** So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."** (John 13:5-17, NASB95)*

*As we are washed we too are freed to serve others. We can be caught up with our own life and we never get free to serve others. The purpose of washing is not to show others how 'clean' a life we live but to serve others in love. The Christian life is not just avoiding sin, but it is seeking the One who gave His life for us. When we focus on Jesus and pursue Him, we have less time and energy to focus on our own self and sin.*



### ACT 3: Anointing with Oil (CONSECRATION)

Everything in the Tabernacle was sprinkled with blood. Likewise, everything was anointed with oil. The blood came from the sacrifices at The Brazen Altar. The anointing oil was made by the craftsman appointed by God. The oil was used to consecrate or make holy that which was anointed.

""You shall make of these a **holy anointing oil**, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil. "With it you shall **anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony, and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the laver and its stand.** "You shall also **consecrate them, that they may be most holy;** whatever touches them shall be holy. "You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister as priests to Me. "You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, "This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. 'It shall not be poured on anyone's body, nor shall you make any like it in the same proportions; it is holy, and it shall be holy to you. 'Whoever shall mix any like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people.' "" (Exodus 30:25-33, NASB95)

The New Tabernacle is also consecrated and anointed with oil, the oil of the Holy Spirit. The New Tabernacle is holy, consecrated and separated unto God. Just as a particular artisan was appointed to make the oil, The Holy Spirit was specifically appointed by God to anoint us in Him.

"But you have an **anointing from the Holy One**, and you all know." (1 John 2:20, NASB95)

"If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, **for the temple of God is holy**, and that is what you are."  
(1 Corinthians 3:17, NASB95)

"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that **we would be holy and blameless before Him...**" (Ephesians 1:4, NASB95)

"As for you, the **anointing which you received from Him abides in you**, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but **as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him." (1 John 2:27-29, NASB95)

*Our High Priest suffered and died; rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to anoint and fill us for empowered living and service. The High Priest commands that we not only be anointed but filled with the Holy Spirit continually...*

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be (JR:Greek: be being) filled with the Spirit,**"  
(Ephesians 5:18, NASB95)

*The Tour Guide has used some very important words in these Acts: Justification; Sanctification; Consecration. Some operational definitions of these words are as follows:*

**Justification is defined as declaring a person free from guilt and acceptable to God based on the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross.**

**Sanctification is defined as the process of becoming holy in life and action by the work of the Holy Spirit.**

**Consecration is defined as dedicating and yielding ourselves to the will of the Father in our spirit, soul and body.**

*The High Priest's goal is to take us into the Presence of God for a work of Heart Transformation. In His Presence there is continued Transformation. The object is to transform us into His likeness and that transformation begins in our heart...*

**"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."  
(2 Corinthians 3:18, NASB95)**

## 24. TOUR DESTINATION: FACE to FACE with GOD

**TOUR GUIDE:** Where do we meet with God 'face to face'? In the Old Tabernacle it was at God's throne, The Mercy Seat.

""There **I will meet with you**; and from above the mercy seat, from **between the two cherubim** which are upon the ark of the testimony, **I will speak to you** about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel." (Exodus 25:22, NASB95)

The cherubim of The Mercy Seat are facing each other or, in other words, they are 'face to face'. Made of pure gold and shadowed under their golden wings, the cherubim are positioned 'face to face' with each other.

These golden cherubim symbolize God's desire for us to be 'face to face' with Him. Symbolically, we take the position of one of the cherubim and God takes the other. God loves us and wants us to be in a face to face relationship with Him. In the Old Testament God met with Moses in the Holy of Holies at the Mercy Seat 'face to face'. Now, it is by God's mercy that we can be in a 'face to face' relationship with Him.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Psalms 16 and 17 indicate an apparent contradiction. In Psalm 16 the Scripture says that the Lord is at our right hand. Psalm 17 states that we are at His right hand.

"I have set the Lord continually before me; Because **He is at my right hand**, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8, NASB95)

NOTE: The Lord's position is at **our right hand**.

"Wondrously show Your lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge **at Your right hand** from those who rise up against them." (Psalm 17:7, NASB95)

NOTE: Our position is at **His right Hand**.

***How can God be at our right hand and we be at His right hand at the same time?***

The answer to this dilemma is in how we are positioned in relationship to God. If we were standing beside God we would be at His right hand but He wouldn't be at our right hand. Likewise if God was standing at our right hand, we wouldn't be at His right hand. But, if God takes our hands and we take His, we are 'face to face' with each other at each other's right hand.

At a wedding, the groom takes the bride's hands and faces her. He delivers his vows and commits his love to her. She in turn declares her love for the groom as she holds his hands. Our Groom takes His Bride's hands; looks at us 'face to face'; and commits His love to us in Christ. At The Mercy Seat we are positioned hand to hand and face to face with Him.

God intended for us to be in this glorious relationship with Him. We are brought near to God through the blood of Christ. The wonder and beauty of God are seen up close and personal. We don't deserve such a high and privileged place and there is nothing in us that qualifies us to be in the Presence of the Most Holy God. Our access is only through our High Priest. In Him we are in God's Presence... '**face to face**'.

"But God, being **rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us**, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:4-9, NASB95)

"...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**" (Ephesians 2:12-13, NASB95)

God has chosen us in Christ and brings us near to Him in His Tabernacle. God desires us to be blessed in our 'face to face' relationship with Him.

"How **blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You** To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple."  
(Psalm 65:4, NASB95)

**TOUR GUIDE:** Matthew 5 says that only the pure in heart will see God.

""**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**" (Matthew 5:8, NASB95)

The way a person can get a pure heart is by having their heart changed by God at the Cross. All things become new at the Cross and it is where God does surgery on us to give us a new heart.

The entire Tabernacle Tour gives us an opportunity to exercise the new heart God has given to us when we were born again. With this new transplanted heart we can come to God and build on our relationship with Him. He will continually keep our heart tuned up and in relationship with Him if we allow Him. We do this by daily bringing our hearts before the Lord to keep them pure and upright. Just as an engine is tuned up to keep it running at its best performance, our hearts run at their best performance when they are 'tuned up' before the Lord.

Part of tuning our hearts is to understand more about our Lord and our own hearts. Our natural heart is desperately wicked and we are not able to understand it:

""**The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick;** Who can understand it? "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. (Jeremiah 17:9-10, NASB95)

There is wisdom in understanding the nature of our 'old' heart and our 'new' heart in Christ. The Scriptures teach that a heart can be turned toward God or away from Him. Understanding more of the function of our heart gives us the ability to test our hearts before the Lord. Different heart conditions are described in Jesus' parable of the soils:

" When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell **beside the road**, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. "Other seed fell on **rocky soil**, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. "Other seed fell **among the thorns**; and the thorns grew up

with it and choked it out. "Other seed fell into the **good soil**, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. "Now the parable is this: **the seed is the word of God.** "Those **beside the road** are those who have heard; then **the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.** "Those on the **rocky soil** are those who, when **they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.** "The seed which fell **among the thorns**, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.** "But the seed in the **good soil**, these are the ones who have heard the word in an **honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with `perseverance.**" (Luke 8:4-15, NASB95)

The seed of the Word of God is sown into our hearts. Some truths are taken away by the enemy before it even takes root just as some truths fall on the rock hardness of our hearts and never take root. Our hearts can be drawn away from God by the temptations of this world. When our hearts are set on the cares, riches and pleasures of this life, the truth of God's Word never comes to maturity in our lives. We remain babies in the faith and never produce any fruit in our lives. An honest and good heart receives the Word and brings forth much fruit.

The difference between the good soil (heart) and the "thorns and thistle" soil is the act of weeding. As any gardener knows, weeds grow as fast as or even faster than good plants. The gardener must be diligent to keep the weed population down in order for the good plants to have room to grow. The same is true of our hearts. The "weeds" of our hearts are removed as we seek God's face in His Presence. As we allow God to show us the "weeds" in our hearts, He is able to clear the soil as we confess our sins that separate us from Him. Face to face with God is the place where the Gardener of our soul "weeds" our heart.

"If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to **forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" (1 John 1:9, NASB95)

Our confession of sin is the process God uses to "weed" our hearts. When we walk in the light as He is in the light, there is a continuing process of "weeding". Our hearts are tuned to be pure and upright in Him. The challenge we have is to be obedient and diligent to come into His Presence daily and allow God to do this work in us.

Our hearts are transformed as we are face to face with God. We cannot change our own heart. God does the necessary work in us to create the right kind of heart.

**"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."** (Psalm 51:10, NASB95)

(See the **SIDE TOUR 2: Heart Exam**)

**TOUR GUIDE:** As we meet God daily in the Most Holy Place 'face to face', our hearts are changed and we can declare our love to and for Him. He desires this and made the way for it. The protocol for coming to Him is based in The Tabernacle. May we hear His invitation and respond with eager hearts for Him. He invites us to run into His Presence as a child runs to greet their dad coming home from a long trip. As He holds us in His loving arms, He does a work that only He can do, i.e. transformation of our heart.

### **A Deceiver Transformed**

A good example of this heart transformation is in the life of Jacob in the Old Testament. Jacob's name means "supplanter" or "deceiver" in Hebrew. Jacob started his life clinging to the heel of his twin brother at birth and continued on in a life of pursuing his own way. The eldest son was to be given the inheritance and the blessing of the father. Jacob took the inheritance from his brother and deceived his father, Isaac, into giving him the family blessing.

The 'deceiver' continued a life of deception and being deceived. Eventually he had an encounter with God. His life was transformed and his name changed as he came 'face to face' with God.

" Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "**I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.**" Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Peniel, and he was limping on his thigh. Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip." (Genesis 32:24-32, NASB95)

Jacob's name was changed to Israel (prince of God). The deceiver was transformed to be one who found favor with God. Jacob's heart was changed and he was transformed. What caused this transformation? What was the vehicle that God used to change his heart? Jacob was changed as he came 'face to face' with God.

*We too can participate in this life changing transformation as we have 'face to face' encounters with God. A question to ask ourselves is whether we are willing to take the time and energy to 'wrestle' with God. We will always lose but we will win. Our old life might be put out of joint from our perspective but we will be changed. God will change us by drawing our hearts closer to His.*

## 25. CONCLUSION

The goal of the entire Temple Tour is to have our hearts transformed by seeking the face of God. Every piece of The Furniture is a picture of Jesus. Our Tour Guide, the High Priest, is Jesus Christ. All of the materials used to build the Tabernacle represent an aspect of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the express image of God. When we look into the face of Jesus we are looking into the face of God. The Word of God, the Bible, shows us the face of God. Every word, every thought, every analogy, story and allegory, is designed to show us God's face.

**"He is the image of the invisible** God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven." (Colossians 1:15-20, NASB95)

The goal of God is to bring us into a 'face to face' relationship with Him. He has made the way open and has given us the protocol in The Tabernacle to come into His Presence. He desires us to be with Him under the shadow of His wings (symbolized by the cherubim and their wings). David expresses the heart of The Tabernacle Tour and being 'face to face' with God in Psalms:

"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: **That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;** He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. When You said, **"Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."** Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the Lord will take me up." (Psalm 27:4-10, NASB95)

*David sought one thing in His life and that was to seek the Lord and His face in The Tabernacle. God and he met in the secret place (The Mercy Seat) where David beheld God's face. God invited Him to seek His face and David's heart cried, "I will. I will seek Your face." Is this the cry of our heart? What one thing will we seek? God invites us to make our 'one thing' Him. When God says to us "Seek my face", may our hearts answer with the cry **"Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."***

## 26. TOUR SUMMARY: Face to Face with God

The Furniture in the Tabernacle was sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice and then anointed with oil. Every piece of the Furniture in the Tabernacle cries out the love God has for us in Christ.

**Faith at The Brazen Altar** is based on the Cross of Christ and His sacrifice for the penalty of our sin.

{Our God and Savior, Jesus Christ was the Sacrificial Lamb that rose from the dead and is now our High Priest.}

**Moral Excellence at The Laver** is based on the Resurrection of Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills us and works in us God's life, character and holiness.

**Knowledge at The Lampstand** is based on Jesus Christ coming as the Light of God. The Word of God came to earth to bring us the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ.

**Self-Control at the Table of Showbread** reminds us that we are to live by the Bread (Jesus Christ) made flesh that came down from heaven. As we eat of His body and drink of His blood we are reminded that He is our life. We are to live by the promptings of the Holy Spirit and not our own desires.

**Perseverance at the Altar of Incense** shows that Jesus continually makes intercession for us. The Holy Spirit guides our praying and encourages us to pray without ceasing.

**Godliness at The Ark of the Covenant** reminds us that Jesus fulfilled the Law and His godliness is given to us. The Old Tabernacle was based on the Law. The New Tabernacle is based in grace. God's grace is lavished upon us so we can walk "Godly" and obediently in Christ.

**The Kindness of God is found at The Mercy Seat.** God's mercy has been shown to us in the life and death of Jesus Christ. He draws us near where we can be "face to face" with Him. Our hearts are transformed as we meet with God daily under the shadow of His wings.

All these qualities are to be diligently sought, applied and practiced in love in our lives. The Furniture in the Tabernacle was made of gold or wood covered with gold (God's love). God's love and the expression of His love on the Cross are the basis of our 'face to face' relationship with God. He desires us to be face to face with Him in love. He, our Groom, takes our hands as the Bride of Christ and declares His love for us. We in turn express our love for Him by seeking His face.

In the Old Testament David recorded some of his 'face to face' time with God in the Book of Psalms. David bares his heart before God and cries and complains; praises and worships; gives thanks and expresses disgust; makes confession and supplication; questions and gains understanding in various Psalms. David's heart is exposed to and transformed by God as he is in God's Presence. David's heart was open to the Lord and he allowed God to change his heart.

"Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are **enthroned above the cherubim**, shine forth! Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your power And come to save us! O God, restore us And **cause Your face to shine upon us**, and we will be saved." (Psalm 80:1-3, NASB95)



"He will cover you with His pinions, And **under His wings** you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark." (Psalm 91:4, NASB95)

Meeting God at The Mercy Seat allows us to be under the wings of the cherubim. David knew that under God's 'wings' is where we meet God face to face.

"O God of hosts, restore us And **cause Your face to shine upon us**, and we will be saved." (Psalm 80:7, NASB95)

"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That **I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His Tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;** He will lift me up on a rock." (Psalm 27:4-5, NASB95)

David's desire was to dwell in The Tabernacle all the days of his life. He wanted to take shelter under God's wings (The Mercy Seat). He longed for God to shine His face upon him under those wings.

The testimony concerning David was that he was a man after God's own heart. Our hearts need to be reformed and transformed in God's Presence. May it also be said of us that we have a heart after God. We can do this by making it a priority to dwell in His Tabernacle all the days of our lives. Only then can our hearts be transformed. Our hearts are transformed when we come 'face to face' with our God. God has made the way wide open for us to come into His Presence by the blood of Jesus.

As God shines His face upon us, we enjoy and experience his lovingkindness:

"Make Your face to shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your lovingkindness." (Psalm 31:16, NASB95)

God takes responsibility to instruct us in His ways as we draw near to Him:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." (Psalm 32:8, NASB95)

Real satisfaction in life is found when we are in God's Presence:

"How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple." (Psalm 65:4, NASB95)

Genuine integrity is found, developed and kept in His Presence:

"As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And You set me in Your Presence forever." (Psalm 41:12, NASB95)

Our heart cries out for God to meet our every need. God teaches us to ask Him to give us each day our daily bread:

"Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; Incline Your ear to me; In the day when I call answer me quickly."  
(Psalm 102:2, NASB95)

Our heart's desire is to experience God's love and protection and be the apple of His eye:

"Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings" (Psalm 17:8, NASB95)

The goal of being face to face with God is to become like Him:

"As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake."  
(Psalm 17:15, NASB95)

## THE LION AND THE LAMB

Holding God's hands and looking into His face is the culmination and destination of The Tabernacle Tour. As we behold His face He speaks to our hearts and changes us.

The Bible says that we are the sheep of His pasture and in Proverbs the Bible says the righteous are bold as a lion. Are we to have a sheep's heart or a lion's heart before God? A personal story may shed some light on the answer.

I was hospitalized after suffering a very difficult attack from the enemy. During a visit from a pastor friend, we discussed whether I would be fit to preach in his congregation as scheduled on the next Sunday. It was Tuesday and I was still in the hospital. I asked him if he would allow me to preach if I met a few conditions. One was that I would be released from the hospital. The second was that I would need to walk a mile on Friday and a mile on Saturday to show that I was strong enough to preach on Sunday. He agreed but was going to have a sermon ready just in case I didn't make it. Part of the many tests and procedures I experienced during my stay in the hospital was exploratory abdominal surgery and I knew it would be very difficult to walk.

Following my release from the hospital on Thursday I set out on my mile walk on Friday. Every step was very difficult and painful. After about a third of a mile I stopped and cried out to the Lord. Unexpectedly the Lord spoke to my heart. He said that I was being a 'warrior' against Him and a 'child' in the world. He desired to reverse the direction of these hearts. He wanted me to be a child before Him and a warrior in the world.

I wasn't anticipating that God wanted to speak to me about my own heart. At first I didn't understand what He meant. How was I being a child in the world and warring against Him. The more I thought about it, it was true. I needed to submit my heart to Him as His child. In turn, He would give me a warrior's heart to fight spiritual battles.

### A child's heart...

Unless we convert and take on the trusting nature of a child's heart, we will not see God. A child's heart is dependent upon and strengthened by a loving father. This type of relationship is symbolized by the relationship between a shepherd and sheep. The sheep are dependent animals. They are easily led; they will eat the wrong things if left alone; they are subject to various diseases. Sheep need the care and protection of a shepherd. As a child requires the care and guidance of a loving father, we need our Father in heaven to shepherd us. Our hearts must be subject to God like a child.

"And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, **unless you are converted and become like children**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:2-4, NASB95)

## A warrior's heart...

Jesus came to be the Savior of the world the first time. In His Second Coming He will come as the Lion of Judah.

"and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, **the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.""  
(Revelation 5:5, NASB95)

We are to stand in His righteousness, holiness and strength against the enemy and his evil works. As warriors, we need to stand firm against the flesh, the world and Satan. We overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony in Christ and not loving our lives even unto death.

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, **the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8, NASB95)

We need a heart like our Lord's. We need a 'warrior's' heart. Children and sheep can't stand against the roaring lion's attack in their own strength. But, we can stand firm in the strength of the Lion of Judah and have the heart of a warrior.

"The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But **the righteous are bold as a lion.**"  
(Proverbs 28:1, NASB95)

A common quote is "the lion will lay down with the lamb" and refers to the Millennial reign of Christ. The quote is not in the Bible but the concept comes from a passage in Isaiah. Isaiah actually says that the wolf will lay down with the lamb and the lion with the calf. In other words, natural "enemies" will live in harmony in the Millennium.

"And the **wolf will dwell with the lamb**, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And **the calf and the young lion and the fatling together**; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9, NASB95)

After Jesus rose from the dead, He was seated at the right hand of the Father. As we come 'face to face' with God we are facing God the Father on the Throne and Jesus sitting beside Him. With the Father we need a "lamb's" heart that will cry "Abba" (i.e. daddy). With Jesus we need to acquire His "warrior's heart" towards the enemy of our souls. We need both types of hearts. In this sense the "lion will lay down with the lamb" as our lamb and lion's hearts come before the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we are a child (lamb) before the Father and we are a Christian warrior (lion) standing strong in the Lion of Judah in and against the world forces of darkness.

"Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might**. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **Stand firm therefore**, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having

shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:10-18, NASB95)

*God is looking for Godly champions with warrior's hearts. God desires champions that will stand and not be turned by every wind of doctrine, ungodly practice or deceiving spirit. These types of champions have paid the price in prayer and fasting by disciplining their lives for obedience to Christ.*

## Gideon: A Lion with a Lamb's Heart

God reprimanded the nation of Israel for their disobedience and had given them an oppressor from a foreign nation to punish them.

"Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on account of Midian, that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out from the house of slavery. 'I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, and I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me." ' '" (Judges 6:7-10, NASB95)

" Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "**The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.**" Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.'" (Judges 6:11-13, NASB95)

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and called Gideon a "valiant warrior". Gideon was the youngest member of his family. His tribe was the least of the Tribes of Judah. Gideon's reaction to the greeting he received from the Angel was to begin to complain about his people's circumstances. The Midianites had conquered Israel as a result of their disobedience to God. The Angel told Gideon that He will use him to defeat the Midianites as "one man".

"But the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man." So Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me." (Judges 6:16-17, NASB95)

Gideon did not see himself as a "valiant warrior". He was a young man who was living under the tyranny of an oppressive nation. He heard an Angel call him a warrior but he saw himself as the youngest member of a family who was the least of the tribes in his nation. He was just a little "lamb" even in his own eyes.

"When Gideon saw that he was talking to was the angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of **the Lord face to face.**" The Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." (Judges 6:22-24, NASB95)

Gideon was transformed. He boldly went out and pulled down the foreign idol that was put up in his town. This act demonstrated the heart of a 'warrior' not a weak 'lamb'. The Bible says the righteous are bold as lions. Gideon's heart became the heart of a valiant warrior.

" The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the **righteous are bold as a lion.**" (Proverbs 28:1, NASB95)

Gideon sees the Lord face to face and he did not die. Seeing God 'face to face' began a heart change in Gideon. In the process of his heart transformation, Gideon proceeded to ask for confirmation from the Angel to verify what He was saying was true. He couldn't believe what the Angel was saying. Gideon uses a fleece of wool (sheep or lamb) to seek his confirmation to go to war. He was depending on his "lamb's" heart before God to get confirmation.

God changed Gideon's heart from a "lamb" to a "lion". Gideon went on to conquer Israel's oppressors which numbered over 120,000 with only 300 men. Gideon became more than a conqueror after his heart was changed by seeing God 'face to face'.

Gideon is an example of one whose heart was changed. He became obedient as a child before God, but as bold as lion against the enemy. His heart transformation came by meeting God 'face to face'.

## David: A Lamb with a Lion's Heart

Like Gideon, David was the youngest son in his family. He was a shepherd who took care of his family's sheep. When David was a young man, Israel was at war with the Philistines. David's older brothers were part of the army fighting the Philistines. Israel was led by their first king, Saul. The Philistine champion was a giant of a man named Goliath. He taunted and ridiculed the men and the God of Israel. King Saul would have been the logical choice from man's point of view to fight Goliath. He was the king and the tallest man in the nation. Man may have chosen Saul because of his position and his physical stature. God does not judge by the outward appearance but by what is in a person's heart. God knew that Saul had a disobedient and fearful heart while David had a heart of a warrior.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks at the heart.**" (1 Samuel 16:7, NASB95)

God knew that David had a lion's heart. Although he was a young man, David was God's warrior. David heard what Goliath was saying in defaming his God and countrymen and he responded with bold courage and righteous indignation.

"Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?**" (1 Samuel 17:26, NASB95)

David slew Goliath and demonstrated that a "lamb" (young man) with a "lion's" heart (warrior) can defeat any giant of an enemy.

### How did David get a warrior's (lion's) heart?

"Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." And David said, "**The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you." (1 Samuel 17:33-37, NASB95)

What did David do while he was out shepherding the flocks? He spent time with God....'face to face'. David was in love with God. David got his lion's heart from spending time alone with God. The Book of Psalms is where David recorded some of his time with God. David complains, praises, gives thanks, cries out, rejoices, confesses, and gives supplication in the Book of Psalms.

As we spend time 'face to face' with God, we will be able to share our hearts with God and He with us. God will change our hearts to be a warrior's heart in His army. The weapons of our warfare are not guns and tanks and bombs. Our weapons are love, joy, peace and righteousness in Christ.



"For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we." (2 Corinthians 10:3-7, NASB95)

## 27. TOUR CONCLUSION and CONTINUATION:

God met with His people and dwelt in The Most Holy Place in The Old Tabernacle. The Most Holy Place in The New Tabernacle of our hearts is where God invites us to be 'face to face' with Him. Meeting with God at The Mercy Seat is where God transforms our heart. He desires us to have a heart of a child before Him. As we come to God as our Father, our hearts cry "Abba" or "daddy". We are taught by Him and learn to live like Him. Our normal "childish" heart is foolish, disobedient and prideful. We are given a new heart when we repent of our sin and put our faith in Jesus Christ.

The first time our High Priest came to earth He came as the Lamb that would be slain for our sin. John pointed to Jesus and told his disciples that Jesus would be the holy offering for our sin.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29, NASB95)

### **Jesus as the Lamb...**

Jesus demonstrated to man how to walk with God. Jesus subjected Himself to the Father to show us how we are to live in relationship with Him. Jesus gave the temple of His body to be bruised, beaten and crucified for us. He yielded Himself meekly to the Cross, His place of physical death, as payment for the penalty of our sin. Meekness is not weakness. Meekness is power under control. Jesus could have called down legions of angels to wipe out all His adversaries. Jesus knew the end game was to accomplish what He came to do and that was to die for us as the sacrificial Lamb of God.

### **Jesus as the Lion...**

The second time our High Priest comes, He will come as the Lion of Judah. He will be the Righteous Judge who will come as the royal Lion. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

"I solemnly charge you in the Presence of God and of Christ Jesus, **who is to judge the living and the dead**, and by His appearing and His kingdom:" (2 Timothy 4:1, NASB95)

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11, NASB95)

If we are a lamb before Satan, we will die. If we are a lion in our own pride before the Father, we will not see His face. Our life in the flesh is to follow Jesus and His example. He is the example for The New Tabernacle. He is our blueprint for living a life pleasing before God. Every aspect and practice of The Tabernacle is a demonstration of the life of Christ. Jesus is the fabric of the Tabernacle, Jesus is the Furniture of the Tabernacle; Jesus is the face of The Tabernacle. Jesus is all in all. As we set our minds and hearts on Him, face to face, He develops in us a lamb's heart before the Father and a lion's heart in the world.

As we walk with our High Priest through The Tabernacle in the face of God, we gain an upright and pure heart. Our lives are transformed when we are face to face with God. We hear His heartbeat

and walk in a manner worthy of Him. We know His mind and understand His will. We are vitally connected to Him and bear much fruit. The heavens are opened to us and we are supplied and empowered by the resources of His Kingdom. We joyfully express love for God and other people fulfilling the two greatest commandments.

""Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'  
"This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-39, NASB95)

The secret of The Tabernacle Tour is that it never ends. The Tour goes on for our whole life and into eternity. Eternal life is having the life of Jesus living in us. We become like Him, not as gods, but in His image. We will be outside the Presence of sin and free to live for Him...in Him. We have the privilege of walking 'face to face' with God every day of our lives here on earth. He works in us that which is pleasing in His sight. Our hearts are drawn closer to Him and we get to hear His heartbeat and learn what is important to Him. We can actually lose ourselves in Him.

### **The Great Physician's Prescription:**

- ✓ **Take a walk daily through The Tabernacle with the risen Lamb of God, our High Priest!**
- ✓ **Understand the magnificent work Jesus Christ has done for you at The Brazen Altar**
- ✓ **Confess your sin and invite God to continually cleanse your heart at The Laver**
- ✓ **Know God as He enlightens your heart with His Word at The Lampstand**
- ✓ **Fellowship with God in His broken body and shed blood at The Table of Showbread.**
- ✓ **Persevere in prayer as you offer your life and intercession at The Altar of Incense**
- ✓ **Die to self and allow Jesus' righteousness and godliness to be your life at The Ark of the Covenant**
- ✓ **Seek and see God 'face to face' under the shadow of His wings at The Mercy Seat**

**Remember His lovingkindness is better than life and in His Presence is the fullness of joy!**

" He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper And from the deadly pestilence. **He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge;** His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day; Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes And see the recompense of the wicked. **For you have made the Lord, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place.** No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down. "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. "With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."" (Psalm 91, NASB95)

## **SIDE TOUR 1: Spots and Blemishes**

### **A Dirty WORD**

The word “submission” has been maligned in our modern generation. When the word is used in reference to women with their husbands, red flags and negative reactions immediately surface. Unfortunately, the reaction to the concept of submission is based on wrong assumptions and erroneous conclusions. Submission is actually a good thing. Women may raise an eyebrow when a man says that submission is a good thing, but the Bible clearly values the word ‘submission’.

Jesus submitted Himself to the Father. Did this make Jesus less than the Father? Did it make Him a doormat and someone to walk all over with disrespect? No. The Father loves the Son. Jesus willing submitted to become a Man and die for us. He volunteered for the position.

Submission was the means that God used to bridge the gap between God and mankind. Even while we were yet sinners, God demonstrated His love for us by submitting to the Cross.

A correct view of submission involves men and women. Men are to be submissive as well as women. We are all to submit to one another in the fear of the Lord.

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." (Ephesians 5:21, KJV)

The Biblical word ‘submission’ is actually a military word meaning ‘to arrange troops under a leader’. A private in the army ranks under a sergeant. The private is no less human than the sergeant. A lieutenant ranks under a general. Each has a different position and responsibility. The position may rank under the other but each has value as a person. The position does not make the person more important than the other. The position does not take away the personhood of others. We voluntarily place ourselves at the service of one another in the Lord. The Bible tells a wife to submit to her husband. When this is taken out of context, the conclusion some make is that a man can therefore do anything he wants at the expense of his wife. The Bible clearly does not teach this type of behavior. In fact, the Bible tells a man that he should love his wife by nourishing and cherishing her.

Peter addresses the issue of submission in 1 Peter 3.

" In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear." (1 Peter 3:1-6, NASB95)

The ‘in the same way’ at the beginning of Chapter 3 is a reference to the passage that comes before it in 1 Peter 2:

" For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps," (1 Peter 2:21, NASB95)

The example that is used for submission is Jesus Christ. He willingly submitted to the Father to accomplish the Father's will. He willingly submitted to the Cross to save us from our sins. A woman is to submit in the same way. In other words, she is to willingly place herself in the position of submission to her husband.

Submission is to be with a gentle and quiet spirit because this is pleasing to God. The challenge for women in the Body of Christ is to understand the danger of having the opposite of submission which is a controlling spirit. A woman may try to control others and her husband by her countenance, moods, words and behavior. A controlling spirit may result in unconsciously demanding her way and not God's. A man needs the respect of his wife. A woman may use her words through nagging or withholding herself physically to get her own way. God's will becomes secondary to her will. In this regard she disrespects her husband and God.

Please don't misunderstand. Jesus clearly values women and so should their husbands. A wife is equal to her husband in regards to her salvation and eternity. In heaven there is neither male nor female. Every place the Gospel has gone in the world, the position and status of women has risen. Women were the first to know the most important event in history, Jesus' resurrection. Women are to be loved and cherished by their husbands.

The point is that the behavior of a woman in relationship to her husband should be one of a gentle and quiet spirit. The opposite of a gentle and quiet spirit is a rough, contentious and noisy spirit that demands its own way. It is even possible for a man who is disobedient to God to be won by the Godly behavior of his wife. He is won by her submission to God.

I asked my wife's opinion of the following hypothetical situation:

If a husband and wife traveled to a foreign country and they were placed in danger, would it be acceptable to the wife if the man lied to protect himself at her expense? He more than stretches the truth to save himself but it actually put his wife in danger.

My wife's response was, "Does she like him?" At first I thought, 'What does it matter if she likes her husband?' Then it dawned on me. The wife would be willing to submit to the situation if she knew she would be protecting the one she loved. I hadn't thought of that. Why would it be important to know whether she liked her husband or not? The reason is that she would be willing to sacrifice her freedom, her body and even her life for the one she loved.

The real situation I was thinking of was Abraham and Sarah going to Egypt. Abraham told the King of Egypt that Sarah was his sister and not his wife. He was afraid the King would kill him in order to take his beautiful wife, Sarah. Abraham had lied to save his own skin. The King did take Sarah and God intervened on Sarah's behalf and protected her.

My thinking was that Sarah committed herself into God's hands as an act of tremendous faith in submitting to God. She was being very spiritual. I never thought that Sarah did it because she loved her husband and was willing to protect him at any cost. My wife, I believe, had the proper interpretation of the passage. Sarah loved her husband and was willing to submit to the situation in order to protect the one she loved. This was the same thing that Jesus did for us. He willingly submitted to the Cross out of love for us. Sarah did not kick and complain to get her way. She submitted out of love for her husband. She didn't want to see him die.

Jesus willingly submitted to the Cross to save us because He loved us!

## A Dirty LIFE

The Bible exhorts a man to love his wife. He is to live with her in an understanding way.

"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered." (1 Peter 3:7, NASB95)

Husbands are to submit to their wives "in the same way" as the wife was exhorted to submit. What is the "same way"? The same way is the same way that Jesus submitted to the Father and loved us. He gave His life for us. A husband is to love his wife by living with her in an understanding way as a fellow heir of the grace of life. He is to submit to the will of God and not to the desires of his own flesh.

There is a malignant 'disease' in the Body of Christ that prevents a man from living with his wife in an understanding way. Not only are his prayers not being answered but he is walking outside the Presence of God. A "dirty" life is preventing men from enjoying a 'face to face' relationship with God.

The 'disease' in the Body of Christ is like the disease of leprosy. In the Old Testament a person with leprosy was excluded from normal society. A leper was called "unclean" and ostracized. A leper had to live as one who was unclean and could not be touched. The leper could not enter the courts of God or the Tabernacle.

The spiritual 'leprosy' I am referring to in the Body of Christ is pornography with and without masturbation. Pornography prohibits a man from living with his wife in an understanding way. His prayers are hindered. He has separated himself and cannot enter into the Presence of God or be in a 'face to face' relationship with God. Remorse and guilt haunt the man who is involved with pornography.

Pornography must be seen as God sees it. It is the visual raping of a woman. That woman is someone's daughter, sister, wife or mother. Involvement in pornography cannot be justified for any man and especially a follower of Christ.

I would like to relate a graphic illustration of the sin of pornography from the Old Testament. The story ends in tragedy. The "dirty" life lived in pornography will also end tragically.

There was a Levite priest in the Old Testament who was traveling with his concubine. She was actually his wife. She played the harlot on him and he went to find her and bring her home. After he got her he was traveling back to his home town. He needed to spend the night on the way and stopped at a city within his own nation. He went to the city square as is customary to find out who would take him and his concubine in for the night. An old man told him it wasn't safe to stay out in the open and took him to his home. Then something terrible happened.

"While they were celebrating, behold, the men of the city, certain worthless fellows, surrounded the house, pounding the door; and they spoke to the owner of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came into your house that we may have relations with him." Then the man, the owner of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my fellows, please do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not commit this act of folly. "Here is my virgin daughter and his concubine. Please let me bring them out that you may ravish them and do to them whatever you wish. But do not commit

such an act of folly against this man.” But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and brought her out to them; and they raped her and abused her all night until morning, then let her go at the approach of dawn. As the day began to dawn, the woman came and fell down at the doorway of the man’s house where her master was, until full daylight. When her master arose in the morning and opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, then behold, his concubine was lying at the doorway of the house with her hands on the threshold. He said to her, “Get up and let us go,” but there was no answer. Then he placed her on the donkey; and the man arose and went to his home. When he entered his house, he took a knife and laid hold of his concubine and cut her in twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel. All who saw it said, “Nothing like this has ever happened or been seen from the day when the sons of Israel came up from the land of Egypt to this day. Consider it, take counsel and speak up!” (Judges 19:22-30, NASB95)

The Levite’s concubine was repeatedly raped all night by multiple men. She died after she crawled back to the place she was suppose to be spending the night. The Levite opened the door and found her dead the next morning and took her body home. He cut her into 12 pieces and sent a piece of her body to each of the Tribes of Israel. The reaction to this event was total outrage.

How does this story relate to pornography? The Levite’s concubine was repeated raped to satisfy the lust of the men of the city under the shadow of night. As a man sits in front of his computer or TV screen, he thinks that no one is watching. He can surf the net and find multiple women to stimulate his fantasies. His eyes are full of adultery (if married) and fornication (if single). He may or may not use these virtual women to stimulate himself through masturbation. He “ravishes” them mentally until he is satisfied. The difficulty is that pornography never, ever satisfies. Masturbation never satisfies. A man cannot get satisfaction in these activities. The result is an endless cycle of repetition, sin and guilt. Viewing pornography is virtually raping someone’s mother, sister, daughter or wife.

Just as the concubine was repeatedly raped, men virtually rape the women they are lusting after. The enemy can use the slightest provocation or thought to make the first lust temptation “domino” fall. Once the initial “thought” domino gets hit by temptation, the dominoes continue to fall until lust runs its course. A man will use all forms of rationalization to justify his behavior. As excuses mount up he begins to believe them himself. He rationalizes internally and blames others (and even his wife) externally. The result is a life that ends up spiritually shipwrecked.

No man is immune. Whether a person is introduced when he is young or starts when he is old, the pornography habit is a “spot and blemish” in the man’s life. Just as the worthless men took the Levite’s concubine and raped her to death, so a man involved with pornography will continue to “rape” women virtually until the death of his spiritual life and other relationships. A man will never be free until he is willing to submit himself to God and get his heart changed and cleansed. The pure in heart will see God. How can a man get his heart pure and clean by being involved with sexual sin? The only way is through heart surgery performed by the Great Physician.

Pornography turns men into wimps spiritually. When God is looking for warriors, men are becoming wimps. All their spiritual strength is being siphoned off to meet their own lusts. God is disgusted with this spiritual idolatry. We are to set no worthless thing before our eyes. Proverbs tells us that when a man commits adultery with another woman, he is reduced to a loaf of bread. Men’s eyes and hearts are full of adultery with destructive results.



"then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and **especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires** and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. **They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin,** enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;" (2 Peter 2:9-14, NASB95)

The only escape for a man is to diligently seek God. A man must become disgusted with being a wimp and pursue the path of a warrior. Walking with the High Priest into The Tabernacle and coming "face to face" with God will change the heart. As the heart is changed, a man is able to stand in the day of temptation. Standing firm in the faith will reinforce the heart change.

Just as leprosy caused a man to become unclean in the Old Testament, pornography is a spiritual "leprosy" that makes a man unclean. In the Old Testament **Naaman was a warrior but was afflicted with leprosy. He was an enemy of the nation of Israel. A young Jewish girl was taken captive to serve in Naaman's household. This young slave girl was subjected to living in the home of a leper. In her home country lepers were segregated from the "clean". She had to live in a home that was owned by the "unclean". One day she told Naaman about a man of God who could heal him back in her own country. Naaman became desperate enough to go and see this man who could supposedly heal him.**

**Naaman left his country and traveled to Israel to find the man of God who could heal him. Naaman found Elisha and was given some instructions on how to get clean. Elisha told Naaman to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman out of pride refused to dip in this river thinking the rivers in his own country were cleaner than the Jordan. Naaman was finally convinced by his fellow soldiers to submit himself to the word of Elisha. Naaman dipped once, twice, three times and no change. Each time he dipped he had to humble himself more and more in the sight of God and man. Finally, on the seventh dip, he was healed**

**A man involved with the 'leprosy' of pornography must become as desperate to be healed as Naaman. He must be disgusted enough to begin diligently seeking God more than seeking to please himself. He must go to the Man of God (Jesus Christ) and do what He says. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. As a man humbles himself before God, he will be healed. It may not be the first "dip" or second or third, but diligent persistence in seeking God will result in healing.**

" Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man was also **a valiant warrior**, but he was a leper. Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive **a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."** Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent

Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me.” It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, “Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing.” And he urged him to **“Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.”** But Naaman was furious and went away and said, **“Behold, I thought, ‘He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.’ ‘Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?’”** So he turned and went away in a rage. Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, **“My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”** So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; **and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean** (2 Kings 5:1-17, NASB95)

Naaman washed and he was made clean. A man can be cleansed from the sin of pornography and lust. Oh, mighty warriors of God! Leave the “dirty” life and be washed in the precious blood of Jesus! He can do the impossible if you are willing to die to self and live unto God.

### **Jesus turns wimps into warriors.**

Jesus, our High Priest, can change a heart if a person is willing to “dip” in His blood and obediently follow Him. Arise, valiant warriors. Put off this sin and take up your swords and follow the King!

## SIDE TOUR 2: Heart Exam

The Tabernacle Tour is focused on how to change a person's heart. If a person's heart changes, the person's life will change. God is interested in our heart transformation. The heart is the Most Holy Place in a person. God dwells in a believer's heart by faith. God brings His life and love through our heart relationship with Him.

The Bible talks about all kinds of hearts. There are positive and good hearts; and negative and bad types of hearts described in the Bible. There are activities of the heart that can produce a closer walk with God or cause a person to fall away from Him. The following "Heart Exam" is a tool for you to "test" your heart before the Lord.

"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?"  
(2 Corinthians 13:5, NASB95)

"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, NASB95)

God is the One who examines us. He gives the examination and makes the determination for the appropriate changes that need to be made in our heart. Our job is to submit to His exam. God can make an honest appraisal of our heart as we are in a "face to face" relationship with Him. The Great Physician of our hearts will do the necessary surgery in our heart to draw us closer to Him.

"For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but **the one who examines me is the Lord.**" (1 Corinthians 4:4, NASB95)

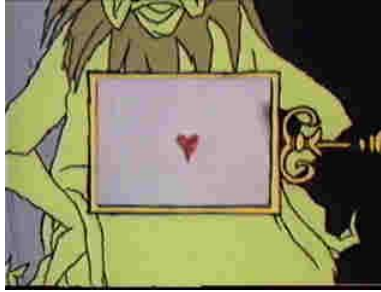
"Examine me, O Lord, and try me; **Test my mind and my heart.**" (Psalm 26:2, NASB95)

The purpose of a heart examination is to turn our hearts back to the Lord. The goal is to turn our heart to the Lord in everything we do.

"Let us examine and probe our ways, And **let us return to the Lord.**" (Lamentations 3:40, NASB95)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NASB95)

# HEART EXAM



## INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1.) Section 1: **Bad Heart:** The first section helps you identify the negative or bad areas of your heart. These types of hearts require immediate attention from the Great Physician. Check all that apply.
- 2.) Section 2: **Good Heart:** The second section helps you to identify the positive or good areas of your heart. These hearts need to be encouraged to avoid any blockage in the heart. Check all hearts you would like God to develop in your life.
- 3.) Section 3: **Behavior of the Heart:** In the various seasons of life our hearts may respond differently. Our responses may be turned towards or against the Lord. The goal is to offer our heart to the Lord so that He can fashion a heart after His own heart.
- 4.) Section 4: **Activities of the Heart:** God's desire is for us to have a heart after His own heart. There are various activities of the heart that are conducive to gaining a heart after God. These areas give ongoing exercises to keep a heart for God in shape.
- 5.) Get a Bible Concordance and do a word study on any of the hearts described in the 4 sections. The sample verses included in the Heart Exam are included as an example of that type of heart.

## Section 1: **Bad Heart**

TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Abominable Heart	Ezekiel 11:19	
Adulterous Heart	Ezra 6:9	
Angry Heart	Ecclesiastes 11:10	
Arrogant Heart	Obadiah 3	
Backsliding Heart	Proverbs 14:14	
Bitter Heart	Proverbs 14:10	
Closed Heart	1 John 3:17	
Condemning Heart	1 John 3:20,21	
Corrupted Heart	Ecclesiastes 7:7	
Cunning Heart	Proverbs 7:10	
Deceitful Heart	Jeremiah 17:9	
Deceived Heart	James 1:6	
Despising Heart	1 Chronicles 15:29	
Double Heart	Psalms 12:2	
Doubting Heart	Mark 11:23	
Dull Heart	Acts 28:27	
Enraged Heart	2 Kings 6:11	
Enticed heart	Job 31:9	
Envious Heart	Proverbs 23:17	
Erring Heart	Psalms 95:10	
Evil Heart	Proverbs 12:20	

## TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Faithless Heart	Hosea 10:2	
Far Away Heart	Matthew 15:8	
Fat Heart	Psalms 119:70	
Flint Heart	Zechariah 7:1	
Forgetful Heart	Deuteronomy 4:9	
Foolish Heart	Proverbs 12:23	
Godless heart	Job 36:13	
Greedy Heart	2 Peter 2:14	
Hard Heart	Psalms 95:8	
Hardened Heart	Hebrews 3:8; 3:15; 4:7	
Hateful Heart	Leviticus 19:17	
Haughty Heart	Ezekiel 31:10	
Idolatrous Heart	Ezekiel 14:3	
Imaginations of Heart	Psalms 73:7	
Insensitive Heart	Isaiah 6:10	
Lose Heart	2 Samuel 22:46	
Lustful Heart	Romans 1:24	
Lying Heart	Isaiah 59:13	
Obstinate Heart	Deuteronomy 2:30	
Overturned Heart	Lamentations 1:20	
Perverse Heart	Proverbs 11:20	
Proud Heart	Proverbs 21:4	
Rebellious Heart	Jeremiah 5:23	
Satan Filled Heart	Acts 5:3	

## TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Self Righteous Heart	Deuteronomy 9:5	
Selfish Heart	James 3:15	
Sinful Heart	Job 1:5	
Snaring Heart	Ecclesiastes 7:26	
Straying Heart	Heb 3:10	
Stubborn Heart	Jeremiah 9:14	
Unbelieving Heart	Heb 3:12	
Uncircumcised Heart	Jeremiah 4:4	
Uncircumcised Heart	Leviticus 26:41	
Uncomprehending heart	Isaiah 44:18	
Unfeeling Heart	Psalms 17:10	
Unrepentant Heart	Romans 2:5	
Unrighteous Heart	Acts 8:21	
Vengeful Heart	Isaiah 63:4	
Warring Heart	Psalms 55:21	
Wayward Heart	Deuteronomy 30:17	
Wicked Heart	Proverbs 6:18	

## Section 2: **Good Heart**

TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Awakened Heart	Song of Solomon 5:2	
Believing Heart	Romans 10:10	
Blameless Heart	2 Ch 15:17	
Christ filled Heart	Eph 3:17	
Circumcised Heart	Romans 2:29	
Clean Heart	Pr 20:9	
Cleansed Heart	Ac 15:8 by faith	
Comforted Heart	2 Thes 2:17	
Compassionate Heart	Col 3:12	
Contrite Heart	Ps 51:17	
Courageous heart	Ps 27:14	
Deep Heart	Ps 64:6	
Devoted Heart	1 Ki 11:4	
Directed Heart	2 Thes 3:5	
Disciplined Heart	Pr 23:12	
Eager Heart	Ec 7:9	
Encouraged Heart	Col 2:2; 4:8	
Enduring Heart	Ez 22:14	
Enlightened Heart	Eph 1:18	
Established Heart	I Thes 3:13	
Eternity in Heart	Ec 3:11	
Examined Heart	Romans 8:27; I Thes 2:4	



## TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Exultant Heart	1 Sa 2:1	
Faithful Heart	Ne 9:8	
Following Heart	Job 31:7	
Forgiving Heart	Mt 18:35	
Glad Heart	1 Ki 8:66	
God Fearing Heart	Jer 32:40	
God's Heart	Je 3:15	
Godly wise of Heart	2 Ch 9:23	
Guarded Heart	Phil 4:7	
Hot Heart	Ps 39:3	
Humble Heart	Mt 11:29	
Joyful Heart	Pr 15:13	
Knowing Heart	Dt 29:4	
Law in Heart	Ps 37:10	
Law Written on Heart	Rom 2:15	
Love Filled Heart	Rom 5:5	
Loving Heart	Mk 12:30	
Meditating Heart	Ps 49:3	
New Heart	Ez 18:31	
Obedient Heart	Pr 3:1	
Observant Heart	Pr 4:4	
One Heart	Ac 4:32	
Open Heart	Ps 40:10	

## TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Opened Heart	Ac 16:14	
Overflowing Heart	Ps 45:1	
Peace Ruled Heart	Col 3:15	
Perfect Heart	1 Ch 12:38	
Pleasant Heart	Ec 11:9	
Pure Heart	Ps 73:1	
Purposeful Heart	2 Cor 9:7	
Reasoning Heart	Mk 2:6	
Refreshed Heart	Philemon 7; 20	
Resolute Heart	Ac 11:23	
Restored Heart	Mal 4:6	
Returning Heart	Joel 2:12	
Revealing heart	Pr 27:19	
Reviving Heart	Ps 69:32	
Right Heart	2 Ki 10:15	
Satisfied Heart	Ac 14:17	
Sealed Heart	So 8:6	
Seeking Heart	Ps 119:2	
Sincere Heart	Eph 6:5	
Singing Heart	Job 29:13	
Skillful Heart	Ex 31:6	
Standing Heart	Ps 119: 161	
Steadfast Heart	Ps 112:7	

## TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Strengthened Heart	Ps 73:26	
Tender Heart	2 Ch 34:27	
Thankful Heart	Ps 111:1	
Tranquil Heart	Pr 14:30	
Trusting Heart	Pr 3:5	
Understanding Heart	1 Ki 3:9	
Understanding Heart	Pr 14:33	
United Heart	1 Ch 12:17,38	
Unreproaching Heart	Job 27:6	
Upheld Heart	Ps 112:8	
Upright Heart	Ps 64:10	
Valiant Heart	2 Sa 17:10	
Willing Heat	Ex 35:21	
Wise of Heart	Ps 90:12	

### Section 3: **Behavior of the Heart**

TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Acknowledging Heart	1 Ki 2:44	
Afflicted Heart	1 Ki 8:23	
Agitated Heart	Is 35:4	
Anguished Heart	Ps 55:4	
Anxious Heart	Jer 4:19	
Appalled Heart	Ps 143:4	
Bewildered Heart	Dt 28:28	
Breaking Heart	Ez 21:6	
Broken Heart	Ac 21:13	
Burning Heart	Jer 20:9	
Crying Heart	Is 15:5	
Despondent Heart	Ps 109:16	
Empty Heart	Lam 2:11	
Failing Heart	Ps 40:12	
Fainting Heart	Ps 22:14	
Grieving Heart (God's)	Dt 15:10	
Grieving Heart (man's)	Ec 11:10	
Heart given to another	Pr 23:26	
Humbled Heart	Ps 107:12	
Languishing Heart	Ez 16:30	
Longing Heart	2 Sam 15:6; 13	

## TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Melting Heart	Is 19:1	
Overwhelmed Heart	Ps 143:4	
Painful Heart	Jer 48:41	
Pondering Heart	Lk 2:19	
Prepared Heart	Ps 78:8	
Sadness of heart	Ne 2:2	
Shaking Heart	Is 7:2	
Sick heart	Pr 13:12	
Slow Heart	Lk 24:25	
Smitten Heart	Ps 102:4	
Sorrowful Heart	Jn 16:6	
Stirred Heart	Is 63:15	
Unsearchable Heart	Pr 25:3	
Veiled Heart	2 Cor 3:15	
Weak Heart	Lev 26:36	
Weighed Down Heart	Lk 21:34	
Troubled Heart	Jn 14:1	
Trembling Heart from God	1 Sam 28:5	
Wounded Heart	Ps 109:22	
Wondering Heart	Lk 3:15	
Avoid Evil Heart	Ps 141:4	
Integrity of Heart	Ps 78:72	

#### Section 4: **Activities of the Heart:**

TAKE NOTE OF YOUR HEART CONDITION!

HEART TYPE	SAMPLE	CHECK
Intentions of the Heart	1 Ch 29:18	
Keep Word in Heart	Dt 11:18	
Love God with Heart	Dt 10:12	
Man after the heart of God	1 Sam 13:14	
Plans of heart	Pr 20:5	
Secrets of the heart	Ps 44:21	
Set heart	1 Ch 22:19	
Tablet of the Heart	Pr 7:3	
Taken to Heart	Ec 9:1	
Turned Heart (away)	1 Ki 11:9	
Turned Heart (toward)	2 Ki 23:25	
Watch over your heart	Pr 4:23	
Whole Heart	2 Ch 22:9	
Wishes of Heart	Job 17:11	

### SIDE TOUR 3: Soul Nourishment First

It has pleased the Lord to teach me a truth, a benefit of which I have not lost for more than fourteen years. The point is this: I saw more clearly than ever that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, ***to have my soul happy in the Lord***. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord or how I might glorify the Lord; ***but how I might get my soul into a happy state and how my inner man might be nourished***. For I might seek to set the truth before the unconverted; I might seek to benefit believers; I might seek to relieve the distresses; I might in other ways seek to behave myself as it becomes a child of God in this world; and yet, not being happy in the Lord, and not being nourished and strengthened in my inner man day by day, all this might not be attended to in a right spirit. Before this time my practice has been, at least for ten years previously, as an habitual thing, to give myself to prayer after having dressed myself in the morning. Now I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Words of God, and to meditation on it, ***that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved, instructed; and that thus, by means of the Word of God, whilst meditating on it, my heart be brought into experimental communion with the Lord***.

I began therefore to meditate on the New Testament from the beginning early in the morning. The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon His precious Word, was ***to begin to meditate on the Word of God***, searching as it were into every verse to get blessing out of it; not for the sake of the public ministry of the Word, not for the sake of preaching on what I meditated upon, but for ***the sake of obtaining food for my own soul***. The result I have found to be almost invariably this, that after a very few minutes my soul has been led to confession or to thanksgiving or to intercession or to supplication; so that, though I did not as it were, give myself to prayer, but to meditation, ***yet it turned almost immediately more or less into prayer***. When thus I have been for a while making confession or intercession or supplication or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or were, turning all, as I go into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it, but ***still continually keeping before me that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation***. The result of this is, that there is always a good deal of confession, thanksgiving, supplication or intercession mingled with my meditation and ***that my inner man almost invariably is even sensibly nourished and strengthened*** and that by breakfast time, with rare exception, ***I am in a peaceful, if not, happy state of heart***. Thus also the Lord is pleased to communicate unto me that which, either very soon after or at a later time, I have found to become food for other believers, though it was not for the sake of public ministry of the Word that I gave myself to meditation, but ***for the profit of my own inner man***.

With this mode I have likewise combined the being out in the open air for an hour, an hour and a half, or two hours, before breakfast, walking about in the fields and in the summer sitting for a little on the stiles, if I find it too much to walk all the time. I find it very beneficial to my health to walk thus for meditation before breakfast and am now so in the habit of using the time for that purpose that when I get into the open air I generally take out a New Testament of good size type, which I carry with me for that purpose, besides my Bible; and I find that I can profitably spend my time in the open air, which formerly was not the case for want of habit. I used to consider the time spent walking a loss, but now I find it very profitable, not only to my body, but also to my soul. The walking out before breakfast is, of course, not necessarily connected with this matter and everyone has to judge according to his strength and other circumstances. The difference then between my former practice and my present one is this: formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible and generally spent all my time till breakfast in prayer, or

almost all the time. At all events I almost invariably began with prayer, except when I felt my soul to be more than usually barren, ***in which case I read the Word of God for food, or for refreshment or for a revival and renewal of my inner man, before I gave myself to prayer.*** But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or half hour or even one hour on my knees before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc; and often after having suffered much from wandering of mind for the first ten minutes, or quarter of an hour or even half an hour, I only then began really to pray. I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental fellowship with God, I speak to my Father and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word. It often now astonishes me that I did not sooner see this point. In no book did I ever read about it. No public ministry ever brought the matter before me. No private *conversation* with a brother stirred me up to this matter. ***And, yet now, since God has taught me this point, it is as plain to me as anything that the first thing the child of God has to do morning by morning, is to obtain food for his inner man.*** As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time except we take food and as this is one of the first things we do in the morning, so it should be with the inner man. We should take food for that as everyone must allow. ***Now, what is the food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just like water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it and applying it to our hearts.*** When we pray, we speak to God. Now, prayer in order to be continued for any length of time in any other than a formal manner, requires, generally speaking, a measure of strength or godly desire and the season, therefore, ***when this exercise of the soul can be most effectively performed is after the inner man has been nourished by meditation on the Word of God where we find our Father speaking to us, to encourage us, to instruct us, to humble us, to reprove us.*** We may therefore profitably meditate with God's blessing, though we are ever so weak spiritually; nay, the weaker we are, the more we need meditation for the strengthening of our inner man. Thus there is far less to be feared from wandering of mind than if we give ourselves to prayer without having had time previously for meditation. ***I dwell so particularly on this point because of the immense spiritual profit and refreshment I am conscious of having derived from it myself and I affectionately and solemnly beseech all my fellow believers to ponder this matter.*** By the blessing of God, I ascribe to this mode the help and strength which I have had from God to pass in peace through deeper trials, in various ways, than I had ever had before; and after having now about fourteen years in this way, I can most fully, in the fear of God, commend it. In addition to this I generally read, after family prayer, larger portions of the Word of God, when I still pursue my practice of reading regularly on ward in the Holy Scriptures, sometimes in the New Testament and sometimes in the Old, and for more than twenty-six years I have proved the blessedness of it. I take also, either then or at other parts of the day, time more especially for prayer. How different, when my soul is refreshed and made happy early in the morning, from what it is when, without spiritual preparation, the service, the trials and the temptations of the day upon me.

George Mueller May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1841 Autobiography of George Mueller p 152



## SIDE TOUR 4: Biblical Temples

God met and dwelt among His people in spiritual houses or dwelling places. There are seven of these dwelling places or temples in the Bible:

1. The Tabernacle
2. Solomon's Temple
3. Ezra-Zerubbabel-Nehemiah Temple
4. Herod's Temple
5. Body of Christ Temple (and the individual Believer)
6. Anti-Christ Temple
7. New Temple

The New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven after Jesus Returns does not have a temple. God and man will live together as one.

The following are Biblical references for each of these 'temples'.

1. The Tabernacle
  - Presence of God with the people in the wilderness
  - Used until the time of King David

" Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. **"Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them."** (Exodus 25:1-8, NASB95)

2. Solomon's Temple
  - Tabernacle into a Temple
  - 7 years to build
  - Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed in 606 BC

" Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' households of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, which is Zion. All the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. Then all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. They brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils, which were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites brought them up. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were assembled to him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen they could not be counted or numbered. **Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim.** For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles from above. But the poles were so long that the ends of

the poles could be seen from the holy place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord." (1 Kings 8:1-11, NASB95)

### 3. Ezra-Zerubbabel-Nehemiah Temple

- Israel suffering in captivity
- 536 BC Zerubbabel returned and planned to rebuild the Temple
- 444 BC Nehemiah came to rebuild the walls and the Temple
- 165 BC Temple destroyed

" Now these are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city. These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel" (Ezra 2:1-2, NASB95)

" Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the Lord. Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers stood united with Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah and the sons of Henadad with their sons and brothers the Levites, **to oversee the workmen in the temple of God**. Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord according to the directions of King David of Israel. They sang, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, saying, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away." (Ezra 3:8-13, NASB95)

### 4. Herod's Temple

- 46 years to build
- Jesus referred to this Temple
- 70 AD destroyed by King Titus

"The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" (John 2:20, NASB95)

5. Body of Christ Temple (Individual believer)
  - Each Christian's body
  - All believer's corporately (the Church)

#### The Church

**"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, NASB95)

"you also, **as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house** for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."" (1 Peter 2:5-6, NASB95)

#### The Individual Believer

"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, NASB95)

6. Anti-Christ Temple
  - Possibly set up in the Church

"who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in **the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**" (2 Thessalonians 2:4, NASB95)

7. New Temple
  - 1000 year reign of Christ

" Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side. When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins. Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. "It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the

others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. "And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. "But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.'" (Ezekiel 47:1-12, NASB95)

## **SIDE TOUR 5: “the Church” vs “the church”**

### **Introductory Definitions:**

#### **The ‘Church’:**

The Church is the ekklesia or ‘called out’ ones of God. The Church is comprised of all those that have been transferred (called out) from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Biblical term “born again” refers to those who have been born by the Holy Spirit of God. The work of the Holy Spirit accomplishes this spiritual rebirth in connection with the Word of God. All those who confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their hearts that He rose from the dead comprise the Church. The Church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in word and deed.

The Church is the living, holy temple of God comprised of people who are in Christ. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone. The Church is built upon the inerrant Word of God, prayer, fellowship and the Lord’s Table as described in Acts 2:42. The Church is a living organism and is referred to in the Scriptures as the Bride of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd and Head of the Church. The Holy Spirit directs the Church in willing and working for God’s purposes and pleasure. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is preparing the Church to be presented to Jesus Christ as the Bride.

#### **The ‘church’:**

The ‘church’ in this discussion is the organizational structure that many times may or may not house the Church. The ‘church’ has various leadership styles, denominations, programs and physical buildings. The ‘church’ is not the Church. Many people refer to a building as a church. The Church may meet in a building called a church but the building is not the Church. The organization meeting in the building called a church may or may not be the Church. The programs started by the organization meeting in the building called a church may or may not represent the activities of the Church. The leadership structures comprised of pastors, elders, deacons, teachers or shepherds may or may not be consistent with the leadership of the Church as outlined in Scripture.

The ‘church’ may be large or small and organized around a particular truth or person (i.e. Baptists, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Methodists, etc.). These organizations are not the Church. Membership in a particular church does not mean that a person is a member of The Body of Christ, the Church. Leadership in the church does not mean that a person is Biblically qualified to be a leader in the Church. Training in a particular school or seminary does not qualify a person to be a ‘pastor’ or leader in the Church.

The ‘church’ is an organization that may have ‘sheep and goats’ or ‘wheat and tares’ growing in their midst (real vs. false followers of Christ). The ‘church’ is merely a structure with some type of leadership and programs that may promote itself as the real Church.

## **The 'church's' Organizational Structure**

God gave Moses an organizational structure for leading and governing God's people in the Old Testament. The structure, leadership, purpose and rules were explicitly communicated by God and were to be followed by His people. The Tabernacle in the wilderness was designed by God. The utensils in the Tabernacle were described and made to God's design. The sacrifices were prescribed by God. The leadership was appointed by God. There is no doubt that God knew exactly what He wanted and how it should be done and by whom. God communicated to His people through Moses (God to Moses to His people). After the priests were appointed, God communicated through the priests to His people (God to priest to people).

Historically, The 'church' adopted a 'God to priest to people' format for religious life. The Catholic church trained priests to be the mediators between God and man. Buildings were the center of worship much like the Tabernacle and eventual Temples were to the Jews. Various physical utensils and religious practices were used to practice their religion. This was 'church' to many people.

Protestants continued with a similar format of worship but tried to focus on Biblical doctrines instead of church doctrines. The structure remained the same in various degrees. The center of a town was the church building. The pastor or preacher is called a man of God. These preachers bring to the people God's Word Sunday after Sunday. The structure of 'God to pastor to people' is still practiced. The pastor or preacher is viewed rightly or wrongly as having the inside track with God. People go to church to hear God's Word and do God's work. The center of religious activity is the building or program orchestrated by the 'church'.

The 'church' has been organized in the USA around an IRS non-profit corporation status. The very word 'incorporation' necessitates a particular structure to be legal and get the appropriate tax status. Requirements for a corporation include various tax laws that control some of what can and cannot be taught by the leaders of the corporation. The non-profit corporation status may drive the direction the church takes for organizing its leaders and boards and limit the content of what can be shared (e.g. political endorsements, etc.). If the government can change what is legal and not legal to be taught in the non-profit corporate church, then the church is subject and could be controlled by man's government.

## **The 'church's' Leadership**

The people of Israel rejected God's leadership and wanted to be like the other nations. They wanted a human king. Although God is the King of Kings and was very capable to lead His people, the people wanted a human king. God gave them Saul. Saul was not God's first choice. His first choice was Himself. He gave the people a man who outwardly looked 'kingly'. Saul was a head taller than anyone else and was a warrior. When Saul was confronted by a person larger than himself, Goliath, he shrunk back in fear because he was not God's leader. A young warrior, trained in the sheep pastures to trust in God, stood taller in character and spirit than all others and defeated the giant. Humans do a poor job in picking leaders,

The priests and kings led the people in the Old Testament. The series of kings in Israel and Judah demonstrated that earthly kings were not very good at leading God's people. Of the 39 kings only 8

were good. The rest did evil in the sight of God by introducing or continuing to worship false gods. They introduced or continued to engage in despicable practices.

During Jesus' time the Pharisees and Sadducees were the spiritual leaders of God's people. Jesus took them to task over their values, leadership styles and hardened hearts. Following Jesus' resurrection a new thing happened. The Church was birthed. The old leadership (apostles) were reformulated and two major groups were being brought together as one (Jews and Gentiles) in Christ. Peter and the other apostles were primarily speaking to the Jews and Paul was primarily reaching out to the Gentiles. There was a conclave of leaders in Jerusalem but God quickly dispersed them by persecution.

The 'church' has trained and promoted people who from all outward appearances should be leaders. There are a multitude of capable, confident and trained people who lead the 'church'. Many times these people are expected (or expect of themselves) to be capable in all areas of ministry. They should be able to teach and preach good messages. They should be able to lead large and small groups. They should be able to keep things running financially and practically. They should provide vision for the 'church' and have the programs to accomplish the vision.

The leaders of the 'church' can be a "one- man (or woman or other) show" or one of a team of leaders. There is usually a single lead pastor or leader that has been given the authority to rule the 'church'. The normally successful leader is good at the 'business' of the church organization.

### **The 'church's' Purpose**

The 'church' serves a religious need in many people's lives. A person can go to a 'church' and feel that their religious obligation to God has been fulfilled. The 'church' can be filled with the religious lost. People can go to 'church' all their lives and never come into a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

The purpose of the 'church' is to perpetuate itself. The structure, leadership, programs and building are all flexible to meet the goal of continuing the 'church's' existence. Of course, God should be glorified and people should be added and all methods should and can be used to accomplish the vision of the 'church'. But, unfortunately, the bottom line is making sure the organization stays running.

### **The 'church's' Growth**

Along with the 'church's' purpose is growing the organization. The bigger the better. More programs, more locations, more leaders, more people have been a sign of a successful 'church'. In reality, a little church with an aging congregation and a smattering of young people may be comfortable for some, but it is not what is considered successful.

The 'church' growth movement and prosperity doctrine have forced one to consider the similarity of the 'church' to how successful businesses are started and run. Businesses need dynamic leadership, a good product tailored to meet the people's wants and desires, convenience for access and a good name. The 'church' has operated with the same principles to grow their congregations. Many large churches are centered on one dynamic leader; the messages are inspiring and can be spiritual; there are many convenient services to attend; the reputation of the church remains good within the circle of those that think similarly.

## **The 'Church's' Organizational Structure**

The Church is an organism. It is a living, breathing, growing, dynamic life form. When Jesus came He changed religion to a relationship with God. The Old Testament religious organizational structure was done away with. The center of the Old Testament worship was the sacrifices that were made for various sins and offerings. Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. The Old Testament structure was just a shadow of the reality that is found in Jesus Christ.

The Church is organized around the risen Christ. The Lord's Table is an outward reminder of this truth. The Lord's Table is not some ritual or righteous act that is performed to gain God's favor. The heart of the Lord's Table is to remind the Church that life comes from the One who suffered, died and conquered the grave. The Church lives because He lives.

The closest analogy to the Church is the family. Both The Church and the family were ordained by God. The life of a family is centered on the name of the family. The Church is centered on the Name of Jesus. A family remains a family even if they change their housing arrangements. Whether in a castle, condominium or the street, a family remains a family by the blood they share. The Church remains the Church no matter in what structure they meet because of the blood of Christ they share.

## **The Church's Leadership**

Leaders are needed. Leaders need to be equipped. The Church's leaders are equipped by the Holy Spirit. They are formed in the forges of life in Christ. The qualifications for leaders are clear. God describes His leaders all through the Bible. Moses: 40 years in training in Egypt, 40 years in the desert, 40 years in the wilderness; David: leading, warring, loving, failing, surviving; Joseph: dreaming, slavery; ruling; prison; leading and ruling; Nehemiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, all great and small forged for leadership by life.

I Timothy and Titus describe the New Testament leaders' character and life qualifications.

" It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:1-13, NASB95)



" For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict." (Titus 1:5-9, NASB95)

These leaders have the high calling of representing and reflecting Christ in their lives as they lead in their families, in the Church, in the world. The Church's leaders have their values straight. They pay attention to their spiritual, marital, parental and employmental priorities. The leadership gifts that they are given are stewarded for building the Church and not their own ministries. They have the same calling that Jesus shared in the upper room...to serve and not to be served; give their lives for others; equip others for the work of ministry; help all believers to be ministers in Christ.

The Church's leaders hold God and His will tightly and their own goals, reputations and concerns lightly. Their heart and passion is to see Jesus glorified in life or death. God has given the Church a living example by those who are giving their lives up in countries that are persecuting the Church. These leaders have a goal to duplicate themselves so when they are imprisoned or killed; the Church continues replicating the same passion and love for Jesus.

The Church's leaders come from all walks of life. They may be trained like Peter in the 'blue collar' world of making a living. They may be trained like Paul in the scholarly pursuits of learning. Either way to live is Christ and to die is gain. Either way every gift or talent is employed to build the Kingdom of God and not their own kingdom. They die daily. They take up their cross and follow Him whether they are compensated in this life or not.

"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints** for the work of service, to the **building up of the body of Christ**; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13, NASB95)

## **The Church's Purpose**

Loving God and loving others is the purpose of The Church. The Church is to die to self and live to God. The way the Church interacts is clearly shown in Acts 2:42: Apostle's teaching, Lord's Table, fellowship and prayer.

The Bible is a love letter to God's people. It shows the Church how best to love God in spirit and truth. Remembering the Lord's Table; singing and making melody in the heart; rejoicing in all things; giving thanks in all things; fleeing evil; pursuing God in prayer; engaging in spiritual warfare...means loving God.

Please see the attached study on the 'one another' passages for a more detailed explanation of how the Church is to be in relationship with one another. The real purpose of the Church is to be in relationship with God and one another to the glory of God.

## The Church's Growth

The Church grows just like the cells in the body...multiply then divide. The Church is a living organism. As a cell of believers grows it will get to a point when it should divide. The purpose is not to grow so big that it can't take care of one another. Leadership must be developed to help support and equip the new cell to do the same.

Paul taught Timothy in the presence of other men who in turn would be able to teach others.

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2, NASB95)

There are four generations of believers referred to in this passage: 1.) Paul 2.) Timothy 3.) Faithful men 4.) Others. This type of growth is organic. The equipping and discipling of others is at the heart of the Church.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."  
(Matthew 28:19-20, NASB95)

The principle is to grow intentionally and divide joyfully. As people are added by God's grace, the intent is to equip the believer to minister to others using the gifts God has given them. God will add those that can lead, serve, give, teach, etc. When a compliment of gifting is duplicated within a cell, the cell is ready to divide. The division is embraced knowing that we will all be rejoined in heaven at the feet of Jesus. The growth model has a vision to become the good leaven in every neighborhood in the world as God leads. The goal is to build and expand the Kingdom of God.

The Church is free from the necessity to have a particular building or program or leader. The Church's head is Jesus. The Holy Spirit leads The Church in loving Him and loving others. Under-shepherds are not elevated but used to equip others to minister. Every member is equipped and encouraged to minister their gifting. The Church can manifest in any environment, rich or poor with the love that transcends any race, religion, nationality or family.

# One Another Study: Relationships in the Church

## THAT WHICH MUST BE *AVOIDED* IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER

#1 -- "And at that time many will fall away and will *deliver up* (betray) one another and *hate* one another .... and most people's love will grow cold" (Matthew 24:10, 12). "For we also once were foolish ourselves .... spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, *hating* one another" (Titus 3:3).

#2 -- "How can you believe if you *accept praise from* one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?" (John 5:44). See also: Galatians 1:10.

#3 -- "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Do not *grumble with* one another'" (John 6:43). This is the Greek word *gogguzo* which means "to murmur, grumble; to express indignant complaint; to utter secret and sullen discontent; to speak privately and in a low voice" (*The Analytical Greek Lexicon of the NT*). See also: I Peter 4:9.

#4 -- "And on the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting together, and he tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, 'Men, you are brethren, why do you *injure* (hurt, wrong, act unjustly toward) one another?'" (Acts 7:26).

#5 -- "And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they *separated* (parted company) *from* one another" (Acts 15:39). This incident has been viewed both positively and negatively. The truth is probably a combination of the two.

#6 -- "The men abandoned the natural function of the woman and *burned in their desire toward* one another, men with men committing indecent acts..." (Romans 1:27).

#7 -- "Therefore let us stop *passing judgment on* one another" (Romans 14:13). "Who are you to judge the servant of another?" (Romans 14:4). "Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:1-2).

#8 -- "Stop *depriving* one another, unless perhaps by mutual consent for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer" (I Corinthians 7:5). Advice given to husbands and wives so that they might remain united in marriage and not be tempted by Satan to sin sexually in such a way as to destroy their "oneness."

#9 -- "If you keep on *biting and devouring* one another, watch out or you will be *destroyed* (consumed) *by* one another" (Galatians 5:15). The NAB, St. Joseph Edition renders it this way: "If you go on biting and tearing one another to pieces, take care! You will end up in mutual destruction!"

#10 -- "Let us not become boastful, *challenging* (provoking, irritating) one another, *envying* one another" (Galatians 5:26).

#11 -- "Do not *lie to* one another" (Colossians 3:9).

#12 -- "Do not, my brothers, *speak ill of* (slander, speak out against) one another. The one who speaks ill of his brother or judges his brother is speaking against the law .... There is but one Lawgiver and Judge, one who can save and destroy. Who then are you to judge your neighbor?" (James 4:11-12).

#13 -- "Do not *complain*, brethren, *against* one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door" (James 5:9). This is the Greek word *stenazo*

which means "to groan or sigh inwardly; to complain or murmur against; to give vent to peevish, critical, fault-finding feelings" (*The Analytical Greek Lexicon of the NT*).

## **THAT WHICH MUST BE *CULTIVATED* IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER**

#1 -- "*Be at peace with one another*" (Mark 9:50). "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Romans 12:18). "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). "So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and *the building up of one another*" (Romans 14:19). Jesus is our peace; He broke down all barriers that divide us and made us into ONE BODY, "thus establishing peace" (Ephesians 2:14-18). "Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

#2 -- "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to *wash one another's feet*. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you" (John 13:14-15). Jesus did not intend here to institute a new symbolic rite/ritual or an actual sacrament, rather He showed that "He, their leader, had stooped to serve their needs, and that they should do the same for one another. The emphasis is on the inner attitude of humble and voluntary service for others" (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 9, p. 137).

#3 -- "A new commandment I give to you, that you *love* one another, even as I have loved you, that you also *love* one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have *love for one another*" (John 13:34-35). "This is My commandment, that you *love* one another, just as I have loved you. This I command you, that you *love* one another" (John 15:12, 17). See also: Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:8-10; I John 2:9-11; 3:10-11, 14-15, 23; 4:7-21.

#4 -- "For I long to see you in order that .... you and I may be *mutually encouraged by one another's faith*" (Romans 1:11-12). "...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but *encouraging one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25). "Therefore *encourage one another*, and build up one another, just as you also are doing" (I Thessalonians 5:11).

#5 -- "For as each of us has one body with many members, and not all the members have the same function, so too we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually *members one of another*. We have gifts (abilities, talents) that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us" (Romans 12:4-6). "We are *members of one another*" (Ephesians 4:25). See also: I Corinthians 12:4-30; Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 4:10.

#6 -- "Be *devoted to one another in brotherly love*. *Honor one another above yourselves*" (Romans 12:10). "Let each of you *regard one another as more important than himself*" (Philippians 2:3). "All of you, clothe yourselves with *humility toward one another*" (I Peter 5:5). "*Submit to* (defer to, be subject to) one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21).

#7 -- "Be of the *same mind toward one another*. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited" (Romans 12:16). The NIV phrases it this way: "*Live in harmony with one another.*" The NAB says: "Have the same attitude toward all." "May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to *live in perfect harmony with one another* according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus" (Romans 15:5, NAB).

#8 -- "Owe nothing to anyone except to *love one another*; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:8, 10).

- #9 -- "Let us pursue the things which make for peace and *the building up of one another*" (Romans 14:19). "Therefore encourage one another, and *build up* one another, just as you also are doing" (I Thessalonians 5:11). When each member of the Body does its part in love, it "causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).
- #10 -- "*Accept* one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God" (Romans 15:7). See also: Romans 14:1-3.
- #11 -- "And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to *admonish* one another" (Romans 15:14). This is the Greek word *noutheteo* which means: "to place within the mind; to instruct; warning based on instruction" (Vine's *Expository Dictionary of NT Words*). The NIV says: "Competent to instruct one another." The NAB & NEB say: "Able to give advice to one another."
- #12 -- "*Greet* one another with a holy kiss" (Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; II Corinthians 13:12). "*Greet* one another with a kiss of love" (I Peter 5:14). A visible, physical expression of love and fellowship.
- #13 -- "There should be no division (schism, dissension) in the body, but the members should *have the same care* (equally concerned) *for* one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy" (I Corinthians 12:25-26). "*Help carry* (bear) one another's burdens; in that way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).
- #14 -- "Through love *serve* one another" (Galatians 5:13). "As each one has received a special gift (talent, ability), employ it in *serving* one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (I Peter 4:10).
- #15 -- "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, *showing forbearance* (bearing with, endure patiently) *to* one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). "Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; *bearing with* one another, and *forgiving* each other whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace" (Colossians 3:12-15). "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And *be kind to* one another, tender-hearted, *forgiving* one another, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). "Therefore, *confess your sins to* one another, and *pray for* one another, so that you may be healed" (James 5:16).
- #16 -- "May the Lord cause you to *increase and abound in love for* one another, and for all men" (I Thessalonians 3:12). "Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to *love* one another; and this you are doing with respect to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more" (I Thessalonians 4:9-10). "The *love of* each one of you *toward* one another grows ever greater" (II Thessalonians 1:3).
- #17 -- "Therefore *comfort* one another" (I Thessalonians 4:18). This is from a Greek word which conveys the idea of calling someone to your side and placing an arm around them for the purpose of giving comfort, consolation and encouragement.
- #18 -- "See that no one repays another with evil for evil (or "wrong for wrong" ---NIV), but always *seek after that which is good for* one another and for all men" (I Thessalonians 5:15).

#19 -- "Let us consider how to *stimulate* (stir up, rouse, spur on) one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

#20 -- "*Be hospitable to* one another without complaining (grumbling)" (I Peter 4:9). "Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13). "An overseer, then, must be .... hospitable" (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).

#21 -- "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere (unhypocritical) love of the brethren, *ferently love* one another from the heart" (I Peter 1:22). "Above all, *keep fervent in your love for* one another, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:8).

#22 -- "For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should *love* one another" (I John 3:11). "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and *love* one another, just as He commanded us" (I John 3:23). "Beloved, let us *love* one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (I John 4:7-8). "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to *love* one another. No one has beheld God at any time; if we *love* one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us" (I John 4:11-12). "If someone says 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also" (I John 4:20-21). "And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we *love* one another" (II John 5).

There is one final "one another" passage that we should examine. This passage should be a challenge to each disciple of Christ! "Now Herod and Pilate became *friends with* one another that very day; for before they had been at *enmity with* one another" (Luke 23:12). If two pagans can put their conflict behind them and become friends over their hatred for Jesus Christ, is it not possible for Christians to put their conflict behind them and become friends over their love for Jesus Christ?!! (Notes: Al Maxey)

## SIDE TOUR 6: Number Seven

When man began to analyze and combine numbers, he developed other interesting symbols. He took the perfect world number FOUR and added to it the perfect divine number, THREE, and got SEVEN, the most sacred number to the Hebrews. It was earth crowned with heaven -- the four-square earth plus the divine COMPLETENESS OF GOD. So we have SEVEN expressing COMPLETENESS through union of earth with heaven. This number is used more than all other numbers in the Word of God, save the number ONE. Remember that SEVEN means COMPLETENESS or SPIRITUAL PERFECTION. Whenever you come to a SEVEN in the Word of God read the meaning and the message is plain.

The whole Word of God is founded upon the number SEVEN. It stands for the SEVENTH day of the Creation Week, and speaks of the Millennial Rest day. It denotes COMPLETENESS or PERFECTION. All of life revolves around this number. SEVEN is used over 700 times in the Bible.

1. SEVEN is found 735 times in the Bible. SEVENFOLD is mentioned 6 times and SEVENTH is found 119 times.
2. In Leviticus 23:15-16, the number SEVEN and the Sabbath, which was the SEVENTH day, are connected with the word COMPLETE. The word COMPLETE follows after the words "SEVEN SABBATHS" (Seventh day). The day following the SEVENTH Sabbath there was something NEW that took place.
3. The word CREATED is used SEVEN times in connection with God's creative work. (Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:21; 1:27 (three times); 2:3; and 2:4). God created all things in the beginning and then took six days of restoring His creation and then rested on the SEVENTH day. (Genesis 2:1-3). He appointed SEVEN days for the week, and most, if not all advanced nations reckon time in that way: SEVEN days to the week. Few ever stop to think of why there are SEVEN days in a week.
4. In the Book of Revelation the number SEVEN is used throughout. There are SEVEN churches, SEVEN Spirits, SEVEN stars, SEVEN seals, SEVEN trumpets, SEVEN vials, SEVEN personages, SEVEN dooms, and SEVEN new things. SEVEN symbolizes Spiritual Perfection. It is used 54 times in the Book of Revelation.
5. The word FINISHED is also connected with the number SEVEN. In Revelation 10:7 we read,
  - "In the days of the voice of the SEVENTH angel, when he shall begin to sound the mystery of God should be FINISHED."
  - "It is DONE" is another expression found in connection with the number Seven.
  - "And the SEVENTH angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne saying, It is DONE." (Revelation 16:17)
6. Noah took the clean beasts into the ark by SEVENS (Genesis 7:2). SEVEN days after Noah went into the ark the flood came. (Genesis 7:-10). Peter tells about the long-suffering of God waiting in the days of Noah. (I Peter 3:21). Those SEVEN days COMPLETED God's time of waiting.
7. Before Aaron and his sons entered their priestly work they were consecrated SEVEN days. (Leviticus 8:31-36) Here is a picture of a life COMPLETELY or WHOLLY consecrated or dedicated to the Lord for service.
8. On the Day of Atonement the high priest sprinkled the blood upon the mercy seat SEVEN times. (Leviticus 16:14) This is a picture of the COMPLETENESS of the redemptive work of Christ.

- “By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” (Hebrews 9:12)
  - When Christ offered Himself that FINISHED the sacrificial offerings. They were ended. No longer must we place sacrifices upon an altar.
9. There were SEVEN years of plenty and SEVEN years of famine in Egypt during the days of Joseph.
  10. There were SEVEN FEAST days of our Lord (Leviticus 23:1-44).
    - Passover
    - Unleavened
    - First-fruits
    - Pentecost
    - Atonement
    - Trumpets
    - Tabernacle
  11. When Israel took the city of Jericho God told them to march around the city SEVEN times. Thus, on the SEVENTH day, when they marched around the city SEVEN times, they COMPLETED their marching. (Joshua 6:1-16)
  12. There were SEVEN branches on the CANDLESTICK in the Holy Place in the Tabernacle and this pictures the COMPLETE light of God for the souls of man.
  13. Solomon was SEVEN years in building the Temple and kept the Feast for SEVEN days. There are SEVEN notes in the musical scale. All other pitches are only variations of these. When the musician uses the eighth note he goes back to “do” and starts over. Man named the notes but God fixed the sounds, even as God fixed the days of the week, and man named them.
  14. Job had SEVEN sons. When his friends came to visit him they sat SEVEN days and SEVEN nights in silence, and afterward they were required to offer a Burnt Offering of SEVEN bullocks and SEVEN rams.
  15. Naaman washed SEVEN times in the Jordan.
  16. The SEVENTH time Noah’s name occurs is where it is said,
    - “Noah was a just man, and PERFECT in his generations.” (Genesis 6:9)
  17. In the second chapter of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image whose head was of gold, arms and breasts of silver, his belly and things of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay. (Daniel 2:31-33) Daniel told him that he was the head of gold (vs 37-38) In the next chapter Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold to be worshipped. At that time he called together SEVEN kinds of officials to the dedication of the image: (1) princes, (2) governors, (3) captains, (4) judges, (5) treasurers (6) counselors, (7) sheriffs. The penalty for refusing to worship that image was death by being cast into the burning fiery furnace. THREE Hebrew children refused to worship the image and were cast into that furnace of death, and brought forth alive, thus picturing the resurrection, signified by the number THREE That furnace was heated SEVEN times hotter than it had ever been. Here is a COMPLETE DELIVERANCE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE from the power of death. (Daniel 3:1-27) When those THREE Hebrew children came out of that furnace of fire, or death, there was not a trace of fire upon their bodies or their clothing. When Christ brings His people out of death there will not be a trace of death left on them. They will be COMPLETELY delivered from its power.
  18. The Saviour spoke SEVEN words from the Cross.
  19. SEVEN men of honest report were chosen to administer the alms of the church in Acts 6:1-7.
  20. SEVEN times in the Book of Revelation blessing of the Lord are promised to His people. These are called the “BEATITUDES” of Revelation. These are found in Chapters 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14.



21. SEVEN times the Book of Life is mentioned in the Bible.
22. The Book of Revelation is a Book of SEVENS. We have SEVEN churches, SEVEN seals, SEVEN Trumpets, SEVEN Personages, SEVEN veils , SEVEN dooms, SEVEN new things. SEVEN SEVENS make up this Book . It is the COMPLETENESS of all things.
23. Jesus said to “forgive SEVENTY times SEVEN“ In other words, He is saying, “Keep on forgiving until you are complete.” Even the duration of Israel’s great punishments was based upon this law of SEVENS. Their captivity in Babylon was for SEVENTY years, ten periods of SEVENS. (Jeremiah 25:11-12; Daniel 19:2)
24. SEVEN “I AMS” in Gospel of John
  - I am the Light
  - I am the Way, the Truth, the Life
  - I am the Good Shepherd
  - I am the Resurrection and the life
  - I am the Life
  - I am the Door
  - I am the Bread of Life
25. SEVEN major Church Epistles by the Apostle Paul
  - Romans - Soteriological - Justification by Faith
  - Corinthians - Experiential - Correction
  - Galatians - Doctrinal Correction
  - Ephesians - Physiological Foundation
  - Philippians - Experiential Correction
  - Colossians - Doctrinal Correction
  - Thessalonians – Eschatological Foundation
26. SEVEN-fold outline in The Book of Romans on Justification
27. SEVEN General Epistles
  - James
  - I Peter
  - II Peter
  - I John
  - II John
  - III John
  - Jude
28. Seven-fold division of the Sermon on the Mount:
  - Kingdom Pattern
  - Maturity
  - Heart
  - Motivation
  - Provision
  - Relationships
  - Pathway.
29. Life operates in a cycle of SEVENS. Changes take place in the body every SEVEN years. There are SEVEN bones in the neck, SEVEN bones in the face, SEVEN bones in the ankle, and SEVEN holes in the head.
30. Most births are multiple of SEVENS. The hen sits three weeks (21 days); the pigeon two weeks (14 days); after having laid eggs for two weeks. Of 129 species of mammals, the majority have a period from conception to birth of an exact number of weeks, a multiple of SEVEN.
31. Human physiology is constructed on a law of SEVENS. Children are born to mothers in a certain number of weeks usually 280 days, a multiple of SEVENS. Fevers and intermittent

attacks of gout, ague, and similar complaints have a period of operation of SEVEN, FOURTEEN or TWENTY-ONE days known as critical days.

32. SEVEN Secular Events

- George Washington Constitution
- Abraham Lincoln Slavery Emancipation
- Industrial Revolution
- David Livingston Opening of Africa
- Disraeli- Suez Canal
- Churchill Rally of Allies
- E. Stanley Jones Kingdom of God

33. Seven-fold Armor of God

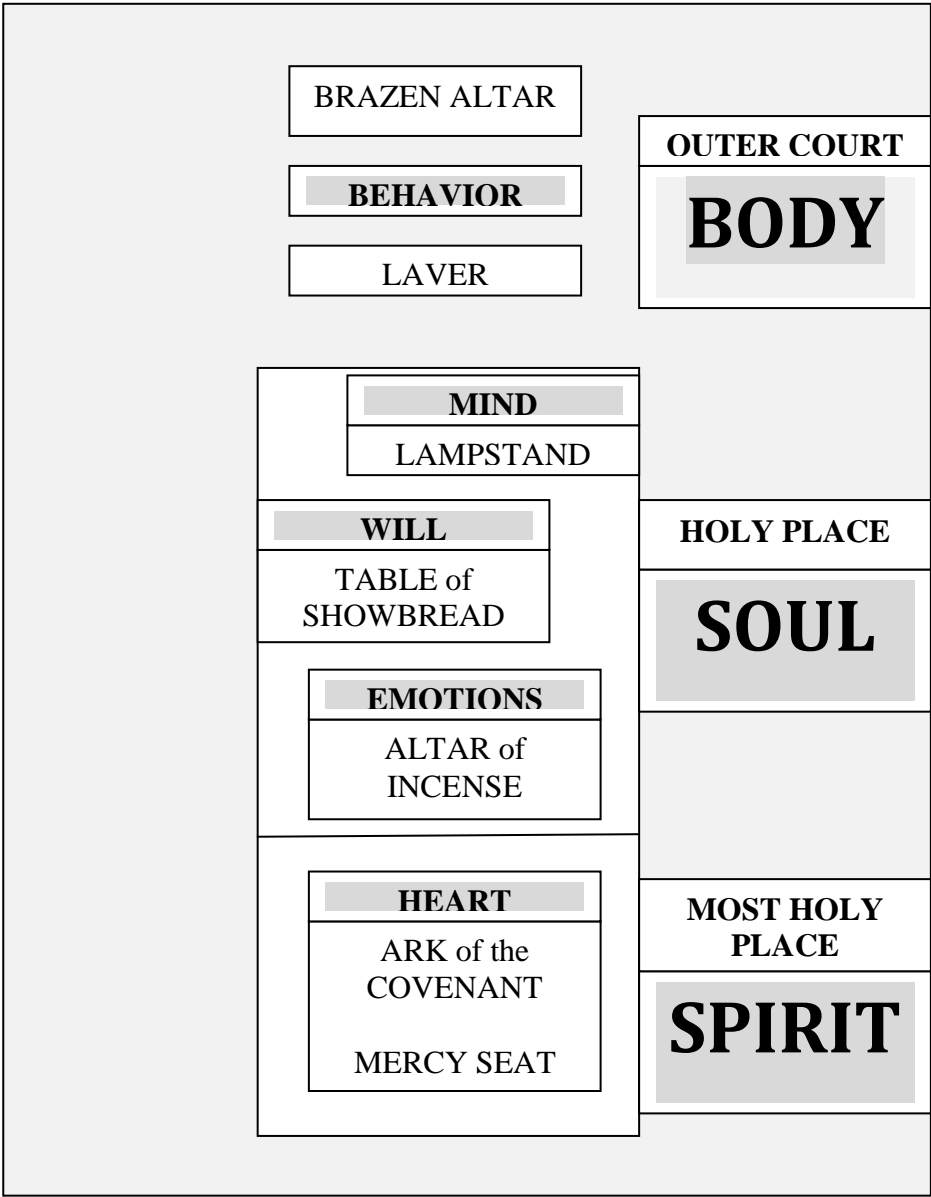
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Helmet of Salvation
- Feet Shod with Preparation of Peace
- Sword of the Spirit
- Shield of Faith
- Persistent Prayer

34. All departments of nature are marked all over with mathematics. In this realm practically everything is in SEVENS. Notice next time the shape of frost when it crystallizes on the window. Notice the small snow flakes. It is wonderful how God formed everything in a pattern of SEVENS.

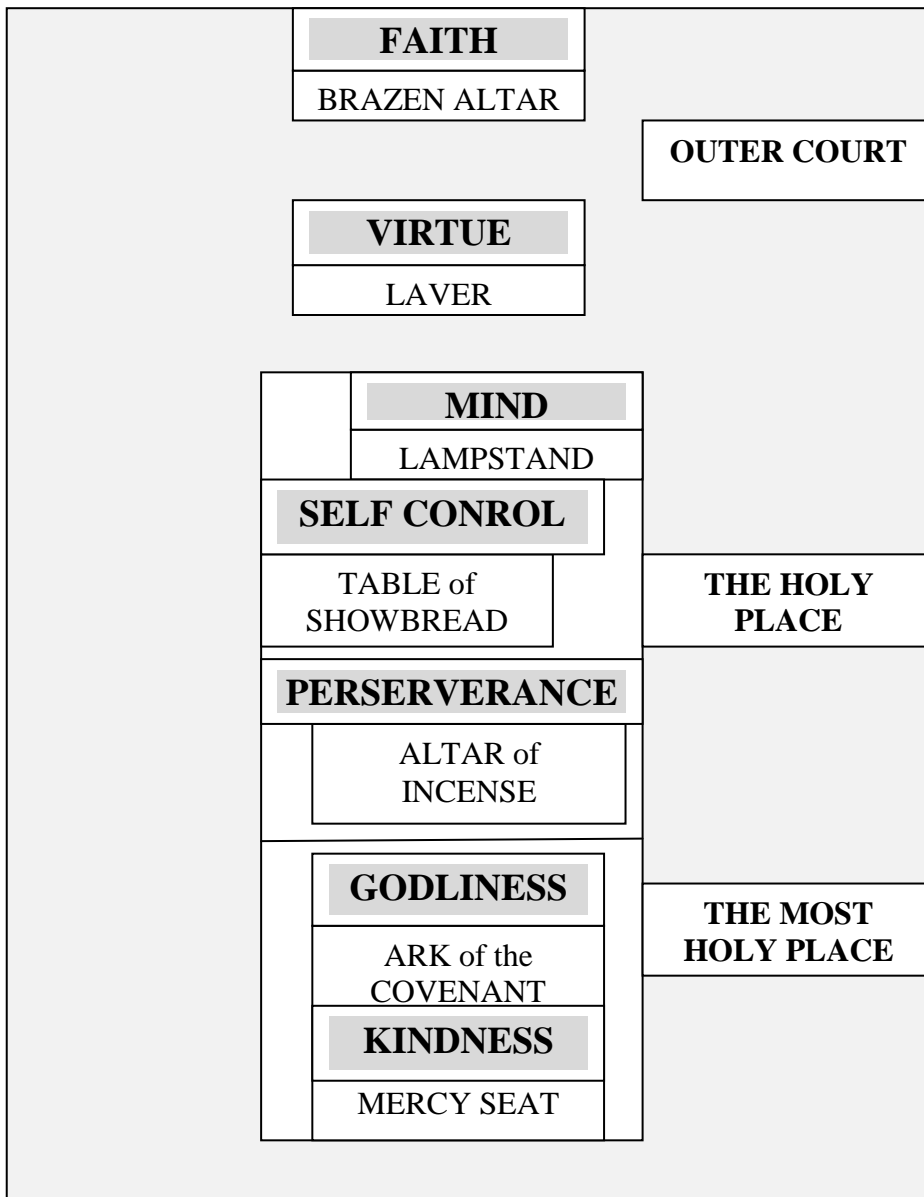
The number SEVEN is one of the most significant numbers in the Bible.

The aforementioned is taken from a chapter from the book, Biblical Mathematics, written by Evangelist, Ed F. Vallowe.

TOUR SLIDE 1: The New Tabernacle



## TOUR SLIDE 2: The Furniture Qualities



TOUR SLIDE 3: Made in His Image

